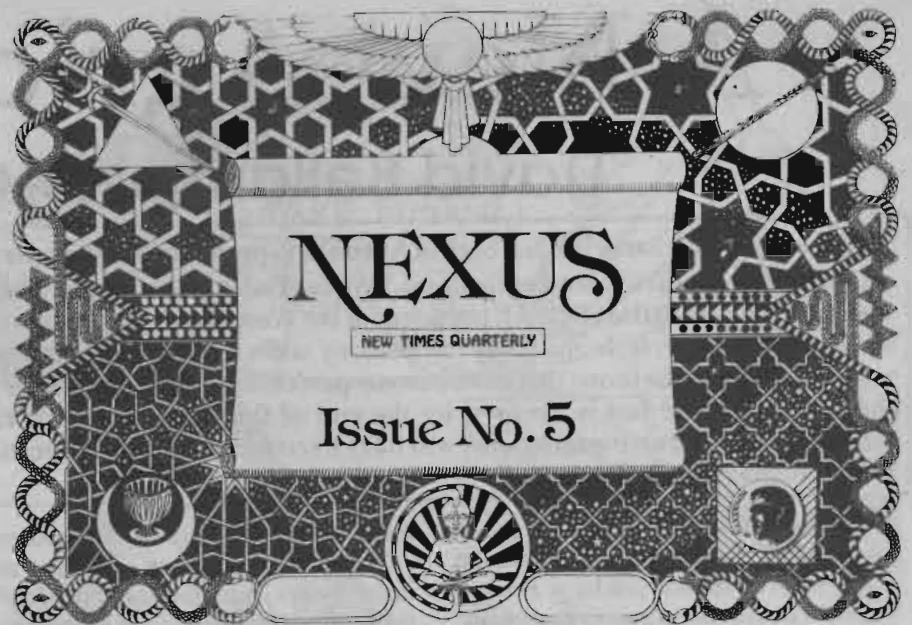


P.O. A556
 SYDNEY SOUTH
 2000

PHONE:
 (02) 399 5043



Contents Copyright ©1988 Nexus New Times unless marked otherwise. Art or articles may be reproduced with written permission of NEXUS - we network this material, but please ask first!

NEXUS New Times is published by NEXUS New Times and has no affiliation with any other group. Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers or editors.

CONTENTS

A NEW AGRICULTURE REACHING BACK	David Bellamy in Australia	2
NEXUS NEWS	What are our origins? Where did the dinosaurs go?	4
DES BALL AND THE BASES	All the news that fits	6
NEXUS NEWS	All we can know about the US bases in Australia	10
KOOMPARTOO		12
TREES OF LIFE	Aboriginal News - A Fresh Start?	16
NEXUS NEWS	Forests Update from Across the Planet	17
THE DARK GODDESS AND THE SIXTH SENSE		18
BIOSPHERE	A new look at ourselves	20
NUCLEAR AGE	Latest Information on our Changing Atmosphere	21
SON OF AUSTRALIA CARD	Nuclear News	22
THE GOLDEN CHILD	The New Tax File System	23
RIME OF THE ANCIENT SURFER	Interview with Tai Situpa Rinpoce from Tibet	24
SPACE	Short Story	25
HUMAN GREMLINS INFECT COMPUTERS	We're learning a lot about this awesome universe...	26
PROHIBITION	Computer Viruses	27
NATURAL MEDICINE	The Freedom Censor	28
BODY MAINTENANCE	Herbs, Sage and Rosemary	29
THE FLOW OF LIFE	Get To Know Your Body	30
WHOLISTIC HEALTH	Lift Out Chart	32
AIDS	An Easy Transition to a Healthy Lifestyle	34
IN ORBIT	A Medical Bonanza?	36
HEALING FESTIVAL	Quarterly Astrological Forecast	37
REACHING FOR THE SKY	Report on the Easter Gathering	37
GEMSTONE FILE	Grains for Developing Your Intuition	38
TWILITE ZONE	Some Real reasons Behind Vietnam	40
LINK UP DIRECTORY	The News that's Hard to Believe	42
THE MOBILE MARKETEEER	Services and Goods Available	44
WORDSWORTH	Markets Locations on the East Coast	57
GRAPEVINE	New Books Reviewed	58
NEXUS I.D. FORM	Your Views, our view	60
COMIX	Free Offer	61
	Pictures Tell the Story	62

Credits

Editors: R. Ayana, G. Nimm, Elmer Griffin, J. Elf & Production: J. Elf, R. Ayana Writers: R. Ayana, Nissa, Elmer Griffin, G. Nimm, John Burke, Gerard, Brian Spears, Peter Krygsman, Victor Voets, Tracie Greenberg, M'Bob, C. Bush, Kenny B. Satyr, Roger Green & Cover: Robin Martin (also inside front)
 Artists: Aldis, Sy Moon, Fadi, Joanna, John Burke, Robin Martin, Owen & Comics: Scott Branton, Isabo, Sy Moon & Computers: M'Bob, R. Ayana, James
 Typesetting: R. Ayana, J. Elf & Research: Elmer Griffin, G. Nimm, P. Krygsman, R. Ayana, M'Bob, Nissa, Hapljen, Garry
 Colourists: General Colour Graphics & Laserprinting: Dashing of Bondi Junction & Advertising: Jenny (02) 399 5043
 Thanks also to James, B. Bear, Andrew, Mannl, Maree, Geoff W., Paul B. and all others who made this possible.

A New Agriculture

David Bellamy in Australia

Professor David Bellamy has just been in Australia to promote a film he's made on the crisis in world dry land agriculture. "Wheat Today, What Tomorrow?" was produced by Barrie Oldfield, president of the Western Australian branch of *The Men of the Trees*. In the film Prof. Bellamy takes the viewer around the world, looking at the farms that have become part of the expanding deserts of the world. The sad fact is, he says, by the end of this century 35% of the world's once-productive farm land will have been turned to desert because of bad management.

"Ecologically sound production has to be possible, because it isn't financially viable to let all the soil just blow away. It must all come down to money eventually, so it is possible.

Whoever's in power has got to either say, 'All right, we're going to wrap up wheat farming - it's a load of rubbish and we shouldn't be doing it here. Let it go'. Or they have to say, 'We must make it economically viable, and the way to do that is to put a perennial crop in between'. Not wrap up wheat farming, but put perennial crops all over the southern wheat belt - all of a sudden the wheat belts in between your perennial crops become that much more productive. They can make a profit and actually start to pay.

And when you think that the taxpayers of Western Australia finance the destruction of the environment for the clearing and planting of wheat, why don't you start actually financing putting the soil back? There are an awful lot of people out of work here, unfortunately, and a lot of those would desperately like a job. There are jobs to be done and I think both sides - the labour unions on one end, have got to turn around and say 'Yes, these people should be allowed to do those jobs' - and the capitalists should be saying, 'Yes, we want to put finance in'.

I was standing at the front of the hotel where I was staying and a very well-dressed bloke popped up to me and said, "I'm a farmer and I had to sell out my farm." I asked him why, and it was a story that I actually made a film about:

"I sold my farm to a big investment company and now they're coming back to me and saying, 'We can't make any money out of it'."

...Twenty-five per cent of all the farms in Australia are going to go into the hands of big business. Either you wrap up farm-

ing in Australia or you knit the countryside back together again with trees and make it work. And business will actually take notice if you show them how you can make money. I think things are changing.

When I was sitting in (Hobart's) Risdon Jail, I suddenly realised the only way we're going to get the Holmes a Courts and the Bonds and the rich people to sit up and take notice is to show them how to make money. If we can show that we can give an investment which will give return in the long turn, then it starts to work. And it is actually beginning. I am now director of three companies - biotech companies - I'm now an advisor, and investors are talking real conservationist sense. And why are they talking conservationist sense? Because they know they can actually make money at the end of the line - whereas so many people are investing in things and the soil blows away.

"Conservation is not about stopping things. It's about making things go in the right direction."

Here in Perth you've got lots of carob trees that were planted a long time ago. They were brought in from the Holy Land and they're a marvellous tree with a long brown bean attached. The little seeds in there always weigh the same amount and they were the *carat* of diamonds. I was in the Holy Land last year and actually saw diamonds weighed with the seeds.

The Boy Scouts have been doing research into these beans and found that some of these carob beans have a 68% sugar content. They're falling off the trees - there are people out of work here, why aren't they out collecting them and selling them? At the moment you import



carob gum from the Middle East which goes to America and then comes back here. You've got these beans growing on the streets! Why allow them to fall down? Why not get them out onto the wheat belt and feed them to those poor old sheep that have to grub up all the bottom of the wheat plant and put dust up into the air, when they could be eating carob?

TV Conservation

I'm a very privileged person in many ways. I must be the only botanist in the world who's travelled the whole world and seen the totality of evolutionary effort on a world scale. It gets so sad because you see so much being destroyed...

If I can lean out of the most capitalistic thing to happen - the television - and say 'this is good for conservation', then we're getting somewhere. One day you even may see David Bellamy advertising a certain sort of motorcar or two which is good for the environment.

Conservation's not about stopping things. It's about making things grow in the right direction. And if we are brave enough to lean out of the TV set and say what we believe as conservationists, then we've been successful.

'Pyramid Greenhouse'

Although we have a more environmentally aware electorate, we are destroying things so blooming fast that we are closing off options all the time.

Although the upcoming generation is more environmentally aware, they're going to be working within a 'pyramid greenhouse', like those marvellous greenhouses in Sydney. We walked in with a broad base, and now we're slowly moving up to the top of the greenhouse - and when you're at the top of the pyramid it's damned hot and there's not much room to manipulate things. That's the overall problem. But I think it's because of a better educated public that we are now being asked the right sort of questions by the people with money, by the investors and the politicians.

I regard two things as more serious than a limited nuclear exchange. One is the erosion of the world's soils, but the most important problem, the real problem that faces us is genetic erosion. As an environmentalist I know that there are much worse things than a limited atomic holocaust, and that is the genetic erosion of the world in which we live.

Even if we learn to shake hands with *Glasnost* and get on with it, we're coming to the top of the genetic pyramid, and in there there are fewer and fewer basic options.

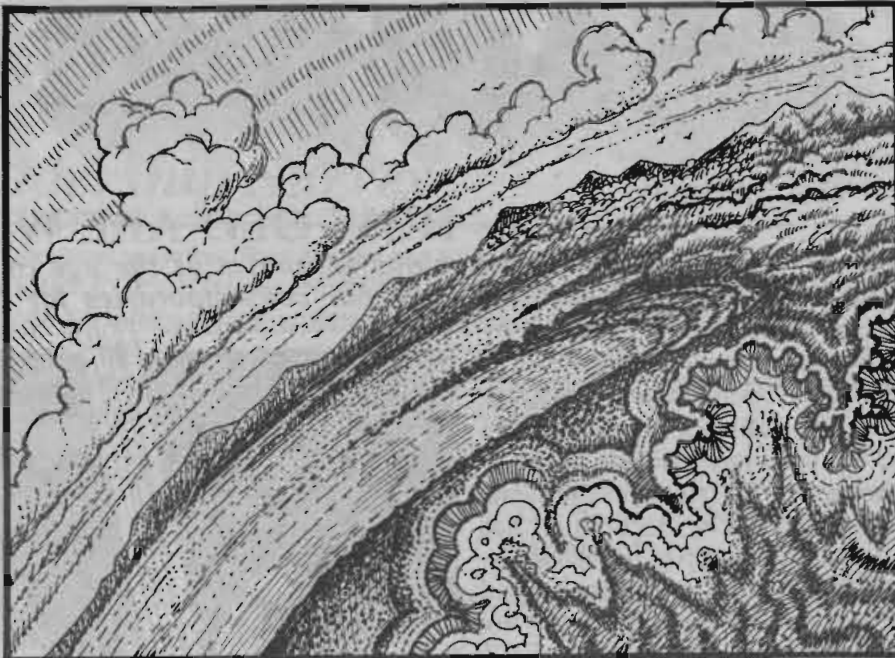
Genetic Erosion

Half the world depends on three crops, and the other half depends on another seven 'mega-crops'.

The whole world has put an immense amount of science into breeding those. There are vast areas of the world which are planted up with a monoculture of very genetically uniform plants.

Disease can hit these at any time and cause massive destruction, and to keep those crops one jump ahead of the disease-producing organisms our scientists are all the time going out into what are known as the *Valifold centres*, which are the centres where those plants originate.

Wheat originated in the Fertile Crescent, part of which is Ethiopia, and all the time that good old Bob Geldof was showing us that people were starving in Ethiopia, scientists were out there actually *taking* wild wheat, *stealing* genetic material from the Ethiopians, to go into our breeding programs to breed bigger and better wheat crops for down here.



And what they've done is, they've scaled the wheat down; it's a wonderful little structure - it doesn't put too much of its energy into producing a ruddy great long stalk - it all goes into the top. But to do that you need lots and lots of fertilizer, and that's why we have problems with the *eutrophication* - or mineral enrichment of the soil. All the phosphates and nitrates go pouring *through* the crop and out into the ground, and cause the sort of problems you've got here in Australia.

We put all this energy into creating these very special crops, but if you have one of these short crops you make ideal conditions for all the insects and fungi and things. So to grow one of these short crops, not only do you need lots and lots of fertilizer, you also need a whole *armoury* of pesticides and herbicides and fungicides which you *pour* onto the crop.

The Third World people can't afford to do that, and what we're seeing is the genetic erosion of the base of the world's wealth. That has to be stopped, because we are closing, and closing, and closing our options.

Of course the answer has always been, "Ah well, we take these genes, we put them in genetic banks, and we keep them in cold store" - and we say, "Ooh, they're ours. We'll patent the stuff when it comes out the other end, and we'll make absolutely sure that we've got it."

Now surely the time has come to stop it and realize that the only way of conserving that genetic resource is to have vast areas of the natural wilderness world, with evolution going on.

That's why I'm a conservationist. I'm not a conservationist so that David Bellamy, David Attenborough and David Suzuki - the three Davids - can all make vast amounts of money by going out into those areas and making wonderful natural history films about the plants and animals that live there. I'm a conservationist because I know out there are the genetic material resources which are going to be the only thing we've got in the future. Having children, you have to be an optimist. " "

David Bellamy has an affection for the Australian environment. He was arrested during the Franklin Dam Blockade of 1984 and spent some time - both in the blockaders' camp and inside Risdon Jail - in discussion with the Tasmanian environmental movement. Here he came in contact with a system of agriculture being propounded by Bill Mollison known as Permaculture (see *Tree Farm Project* on p19 & *Permaculture review* in this issue's WordsWorth section).

If you would like to show the video "Wheat Today, What Tomorrow?" in your local community, write to: M.B. Oldfield & Sons, 3 Over Ave, Lesmurdie, W.A., 6076. Telephone (09) 291.6619. Running time 34 mins. Price \$50 plus \$3.25 postage.

Thanks to ABC TV

REACHING BACK

HOW OLD ARE WE?

New evidence has doubled previous estimates of the age of humanity and shows that the more primitive Neanderthals were our contemporaries for tens of thousands of years

Scientists from France's Institute of Low Level Radiation, headed by Helene Valladas, has developed a dating technique called *thermoluminescence* with colleagues in Israel and France. The technique has shown that a group of human skeletons found at a site in Israel called Qafzeh Cave several years ago are 95,000 years old, plus or minus 5,000 years. They were previously dated at 40,000 years using other methods.

The find has rocked the evolutionary boat and thrown new light on our early development. It shows that Neanderthals lived at the same time as modern man and that they are not our direct ancestors as previously assumed. The human family tree will have to be reassessed based on this evidence. It also shows that although the two groups co-existed during the same period, they probably didn't interbreed. It is therefore believed the genetic difference between them must have been greater than originally thought.

SINGLE RACIAL ORIGIN?

Most importantly, the find supports the 'single origin' theory for all races on earth.

The questions raised as a result of these new dating procedures will take years to answer. The 'African Eve' theory (see issue 4) that we all descended from one woman seems to be supported by this find, although Eve would probably not have been a 'modern' human. It also raises the question that if modern humans appeared in the Middle East 90-100,000 years ago, why did it take the Qafzeh people 50,000 years to spread into Neanderthal Europe and Asia?



Cleveland Museum, Dr Philip Currie of the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Alberta and Dr Robert Bakker of the University of Colorado have named the skull as that of *Nanptyrannus* (pygmy tyrant) *lancensis*, a relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The find has supported the theory that the dinosaurs didn't entirely die out, but evolved into birds.

The brain-case of the *Nanptyrannus* is riddled with air canals used to cool the brain, strikingly similar to the huge *Tyrannosaurus Rex* and modern-day birds. This fossil find is important because there are hardly any records showing such diversity among dinosaurs.

PREHISTORIC ACID RAIN

Argument about the cause of the demise of the dinosaurs still rages. One recent theory is that acid rain was responsible.

Mr Douglas Macdougall, a geochemist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography found high levels of Strontium-87 in analysis of fossils. Ronald Prinn of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has worked on the theory that a meteoroid/asteroid struck the Earth about 65,000,000 years ago, causing an enormous amount of dust to rise into the atmosphere, blocking the sunlight.

In addition to this, it is believed the impact triggered chemical reactions by heating the atmosphere, producing enormous amounts of nitric acid. The impact would have released 10 million times more energy than the detonation of all the world's nuclear weapons at once, wiping out much of the sealife and all land animals with a body weight of more than 70lb (32kg).

The remains of about 4,000 ice age mammals were recently found in Altai, Siberia; among them were a mammoth, a hairy rhinoceros and Baikal yaks. But the most exciting find was bones and teeth of a Neanderthal man along with the 42,000 year old mammals. The majority of scientists believed that the first human in northern Asia appeared 37-39,000 years ago.

DINOSAUR DIVERSITY

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has identified a dinosaur skull found in Montana in 1942 as that of a previously unknown genus, a pygmy *tyrannosaur*.

Dr. Michael Williams of the



BATTERY ACID RAIN

The acid released would have been as strong as battery acid, eating away at exposed rock and washing vast quantities of minerals into the world's oceans. Macdougall's research shows that fossilised shells of *forams* - tiny ocean floating organisms - and layers of rock that formed when the dinosaurs died out yielded the largest amount of *Strontium-87*, supporting Prinn's theory.

The intensely toxic acid rain would have destroyed virtually all plant life, causing starvation among all herbivores. This in turn would have eliminated the food supply for carnivores. An asteroid or cometary impact is the only way to produce acid of a strength (ten thousand

times stronger than acid rain today) sufficient to leave such strong deposits of strontium. Other research backs up the theory; high levels of iridium in the same rock strata indicate an iridium-laden asteroid struck the Earth at this time.

TO THE FUTURE

Some scientists are not going to risk the loss of some species of animals. The worldwide extinction rate is now estimated at between one species a second and one a day as we hack down forests for industry and housing, eliminating habitats in the process.

Dr Harry Moore, head of London Zoo and Dr Bill Holt have invented a computer controlled system for

freezing animals' sperm. The plan is to create a freezer depot or fauna bank for species threatened with extinction. So far the zoo has frozen sperm from the giant panda, gorilla, chimpanzee, black buck (an Asian antelope native to Pakistan), peregrine falcon and the merlin. The team hope to collect more specimens, starting with species under most threat. The North African black rhino is high on the list; its population is now down to between 50 and 100 individuals.

Perhaps we can repay some of the debt we owe the animal kingdom and put to use advances we have made in science to benefit and preserve for the future some of the species we have helped to destroy ▲

- Nissa

Present Concerns, Future Reality

Technological advances are being dumped on humanity with no assessment of the damage they cause by 'market men', says UN environmental adviser and futurologist Dr Rashmi Mayur.

The result is a world where water supplies are polluted and dwindling, the ozone layer is damaged, the atmosphere is toxifying and top-soils are being lost.

But Australia can take a world lead in adopting a controlled approach to technological advances in farming, soil and water preservation, according to Dr Mayur. We should join other countries in studying future food production and ozone depletion, he says. 'Third World' countries living near Australia have 82,000 children dying each day, 800 million people with barely enough food, and 40% of their 3.5 billion people have no clean water.

"There is a need for a new philosophy, a new outlook, new values, and a realisation that we are a family of human beings," he said in Melbourne earlier this



year. The introduction of technology to these countries without proper assessment can worsen their situation, Dr Mayur said, pointing out that Japan is already preparing for life in the 22nd Century - with plans for 74 new technological cities based on the design of Kawasaki, a high-tech industrial centre with a population of one million.

Hi Tech City for Oz?

Kawasaki was designed to cut pollution and use less than 30% of the energy of an equal-sized 'traditional' city. Japan has plans for building at least one such model city in Australia, and many urban and regional centres throughout the nation have been vying for its placement over the last few months.

Coming from Bombay, India, Dr Mayur led the team of urban systems analysts which won an international competition for the development of Kawasaki as the world's first 'information' city.

- AAP

Universe Born in a Vortex?

What do whirlpools, tornadoes, DNA and galaxies have in common?

Electromagnetism, not gravity, may be the original and dominant force in the universe - which may have been formed in a massive spiral vortex, according to new supercomputer research.

The work of theoretical physicist Anthony Peratt of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico challenges Einstein's General Theory of Relativity as an explanation of the evolution of the universe. His studies (and those of astronomers worldwide) on electricity's role in weaving galaxies into spirals suggest the evolution of a galaxy is a smaller-scale version of the events and forces present when our universe was born.

"That's a fundamental new concept," Peratt said.

CLUES IN THE VORTEX

"Vortices are important in nature from the smallest imaginable to the largest. Water draining from a bathtub forms a vortex. Vortices are morphologies (structures) that can be seen everywhere."

Peratt's studies show that threads millions of light years long form from cosmic plasma - hot electrically-charged gas that pervades the universe in the 'fourth state of matter'.

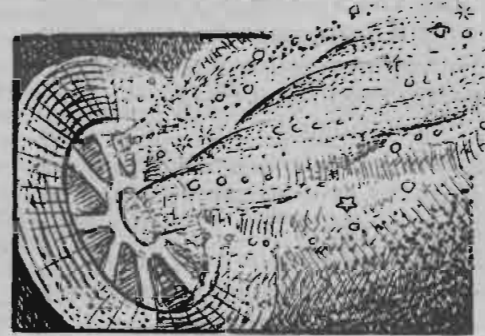
These plasma threads are powerful energy sources and as electricity flows through them magnetic whirlwinds are formed, Peratt says.

Over billions of years these highly charged threads, twisting in an awesome cosmic vortex, suck in particles, dust and other matter and break into galaxies.

"Using a supercomputer we were able to take some of these currents and simulate them. We scaled them up to galactic dimensions," Peratt said.

20th century science has viewed gravity as the main force in the birth of the universe, but Peratt and his team believe that electromagnetism formed the cosmos and galaxies - and a universe shaped by electromagnetism doesn't require a "Big Bang" to begin.

- United Press International



UK Scientists Die for Defence

Is a series of strange deaths of British defense experts continuing with the apparent suicide of another scientist?

Mr Trevor Knight, a 52-year old computer specialist working for leading defence contractor Marconi, was found dead in his fume-filled car in March. He is the fifth Marconi employee and the eighth British defence specialist to die in unusual circumstances in recent years.

A police spokesperson said Mr Knight's work was "not in a secret defence classified sector" and that he had been "incorrectly connected" with the other deaths. He had earlier been described as a 'missile guidance expert' by the British press.

Computer science Professor Keith Bowden died when his car plunged onto a disused Essex railway line in 1986; then other experts were found dead after road accidents. One scientist was found under a car with the engine running and another fell from a bridge. Marconi computer designer Richard Pugh's death remains unexplained. Other deaths involved hanging and drugs; yet another scientist attempted suicide and one is still missing.

- Reuter & Agence France-Presse



'Rare Earth' Rarer

The \$7 million proposal to establish a 'rare earth' plant - actually a radioactive mineral processing mill - at Tuncester near Lismore, seems to have been pole-axed at last.

Commissioners William Simpson and Kevin Cleland advised Lismore Council to refuse the development after examining the proposal, saying that proposed on-site storage of nuclear waste was unsatisfactory and radioactive emissions would harm the environment.

Residents from all walks of life united in opposing the plant, which would have exposed the region (and local primary industries) to radioactive pollutants - while providing jobs for a handful of people for only twenty years.

Feral First for Public TV

A group calling itself Feral Television broadcast its programmes over Channel 0 Melbourne's frequency in February, interrupting normal station broadcasts with pre-recorded material including video clips.

The broadcasts were screened for short periods at irregular intervals, possibly from a van.

Ms Jenny Wilkins, a spokeswoman for a licensed community TV group called Television Unlimited (TV U), - which recently began Melbourne UHF test broadcasts - suggested Feral TV pirated the airwaves because of frustration at delays in establishing a public TV network.

Sydney's Metro Television is hoping to begin UHF test broadcasts later this year, possibly transmitting from the Ultimo University of Technology to reach most of the inner suburbs.

"There is a large amount of independent films and video that is never properly screened which we could show," said Metro chairman Mr Greg Hoy.

Every Baby Needs Some Body

The age-old practice of sleeping with newborn babies has found fresh support.

"In all known human societies other than our own Western industrialised culture, the mother and infant sleep in the same bed," says Dr Melvin J. Konner, psychiatrist and anthropologist at Atlanta's Emory University in the US.

"The same is true of our closest non-human relatives, monkeys and chimps. So from an evolutionary and anthropological perspective, it would appear that isolated sleeping is not natural for the human infant."

Dr Konner and others point out that human infants - the most physically immature of all primates - are the only ones expected to sleep alone. This is a recent phenomenon. Throughout most of human history and cultures, babies have slept with their mothers.

Some researchers believe that putting newborns in a separate room - common only in industrial societies - may contribute to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), or cot death. But evidence for this remains largely circumstantial.

Contact Evolution

"For three to four million years, the human infant evolved to expect direct parental contact during the night," says James J. McKenna, anthropologist and psychologist at Pomona College in California, who links separate sleeping quarters with SIDS.

"That means the breathing and sleep systems of the very immature human infant evolved in the context of a rich variety of sensory cues from the parent."

Infants deprived of physical contact but otherwise well cared for are often psychologically or physically stunted. Recent studies show that frequent parental touch stimulates infant growth.

Some medical authorities dismiss all this as speculation. But one dramatic study by researchers at the University of Miami Medical School found that light massage of premature babies three times a day caused them to gain weight 47% faster than those left alone in incubators.

- Knight Ridder Newspapers



To Tan or Not to Tan?

Ten minutes of sunshine a day can help fortify the body against certain cancers, according to US research.

To benefit from sunshine you have to be exposed to the right type - and beneficial wavelengths of ultraviolet (U.V.) light in sunlight can be filtered out by pollutants like sulphur dioxide, which enshroud most industrial cities.

"What we are showing is that cancers of the colon and breast may be vitamin D deficiency diseases in adults," one of the University of California scientists said.

Dr Robin Marks, the Victorian Anti-Cancer Council's education director, reports that the effect of UV light in helping the skin produce vitamin D is well known - but Australian sunlight is so strong it can penetrate the veil of pollution which hangs over big cities, so Australians should treat the US study cautiously. Australia has a higher level of UV light than Europe or the United States.

Increases in damaging forms of ultraviolet light from ozone depletion are another danger here during spring. But if you can't get enough vitamin D from sunlight it's also available in dairy and other foods.

Homœopathic Radiation

"Over 1,000 scientific reports have now been published which indicate small doses of radiation can have a hormetic effect," according to Mr Keith Brown of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

Hormesis is the stimulation of an organism by non-toxic amounts of a known toxin. This is the basis of homœopathy.

"The best known example is the stimulatory effect of low levels of radiation on the germination of seeds and the growth of plants.

"Other beneficial effects reported in both plants and animals include improved fertility, increased lifespan, prevention of tumours and increased resistance to infection."

Mr Brown said research indicates that people who live at high altitudes die of cancer less often than those who live at sea level. This has been attributed by some researchers to 'cosmic rays', from the surrounding universe and from naturally occurring radioactive minerals in the planet's crust and biosphere.

'Hormetic' - or relatively low-intensity radiation - may be essential for organic functioning; but there is no safe level for all organisms.

NEXUS NEWS

THE PEOPLE VS 2,4-D



"We just ran. We had to."

A Murwillumbah woman has succeeded for a fifth time in temporarily stopping her local council from spraying 2,4-D on the land where she lives.

Ms Diane Rundle is taking legal action against Tweed Shire Council, which owns the land, and the Far North Coast County Council, saying the sprays have harmed her health and the environment.

She lives with her two children in a rented house on 400ha of land at Byrrell Creek in the 'Rainbow Region' and has won successive court injunctions preventing the council from spraying since late last year, when her hearing was first adjourned. The council is currently prohibited from spraying until July 21st.

"A Very Toxic Dose"

In Emu Plains in Sydney's West, Telecom and the Commonwealth are being sued over suburban 2,4-D spraying.

Mr Nedeljko Macic lost all his teeth, his mother-in-law lost clumps of hair and his 14-year old daughter Jenny breaks out in red sores whenever she contacts chemicals. The family claims the toxic weedicide, sprayed on adjacent land, has caused permanent physical and mental damage to the parents and four children.

The Macics built their house next door to a Telecom substation in Russell St, Emu Plains in 1980.

"It started with a rash, vomiting, headaches and red, sore eyes" in 1981,

says Mr Macic. Then family members began losing hair and teeth, a pet German shepherd went deaf and blind, lost its hair and died and the children's pet pigeons were born deformed - with no wings, two beaks or one leg. Garden plants and trees died and the younger children have had learning difficulties, headaches, dizzy spells and, in the case of 13-year old Bobby, stunted growth; he could be mistaken for a nine-year old.

The family moved to Queanbeyan in 1984.

"We just ran," said Mr Macic. "We had to." He took soil samples to his native Yugoslavia where Dr Vaskrsija Janjic - of the Institute of Pesticides and Environmental Protection at the University of Belgrade - tested the soil and announced that "very high amounts of 2,4-D" (up to 300 times higher than would be found if the chemical had been applied as recommended) were present. These massive amounts would cause anyone living in such conditions for one month to "inhale... a very toxic dose of 2,4-D," concluded Dr Janjic.

An Australian scientist verified that the levels of herbicide were "horrendous".

The Macic's solicitor estimates it may be "a couple of years" before the case is heard; other families in the street have been similarly affected.

Do you live near a substation?

No Food Please, We're British

The Thatcher Government is proposing to subsidize British farmers *not* to produce food in a bid to cut the European food mountains, which cost A\$500 million a year to store. The proposal is part of Mrs Thatcher's plan to cut food subsidies - by paying farmers to cut their land devoted to cereals or beef herds by 20%.

One problem is that only the least productive land is likely to be set aside. This may even regenerate marginal land, but it won't reduce the cereal glut.

The scheme will primarily benefit wealthy farmers with large land holdings. Some farmers are already cultivating extra acres so they can be paid to set them aside again.

Wave Power in Bali Too

Bali will soon have the world's first commercial wave power station. The Norwegian company *Norwave* is building and paying for the station, which will generate one megawatt of power.

The electricity will cost *Norwave* 9.4 cents per unit, though it will sell to the Balinese for 22.5 cents a unit - still considerably cheaper than current electricity costs. The contract to sell electricity will be for four years only, after which time *Norwave* will hand the station over to Bali.

Norwave says the device is best suited to coastal communities and islands using low amounts of power not linked to (or wanting not to remain linked to) a main grid.



MOUSE PATENTED

The U.S. Government has approved a patent for a genetically altered mouse sub-species in the first patent to be issued for an animal. It was granted to Harvard University for a new type of mouse 'endowed' with a gene disorder to make it useful for cancer-related research.

-AP

Red-Back May Be a Blow-In



The infamous red-back spider may be a recent immigrant who first sailed to Australia last century.

They were first described in 1870 - following 82 years of white settlement - after about 200 other Australian spider species were already reported. They would have been noticed sooner if they were common last century, according to Dr Robert Raven, curator of spiders at Queensland museum.

They probably arrived through the north Queensland ports of Bowen and Rockhampton, where they were first sighted.

The red-back appeared in New Zealand a few years ago and is colonising there as well. It is a close relative of the notorious black widow family.

An antivenene was discovered in 1956, after at least 13 Australians died from red-back bites, which require about 200 treatments each year.

New Spiders

Dr Raven says a close relative of the redback, the less venomous brown widow, arrived in Australia recently and is colonising here, as is the Fiddle-back, another relative from America that arrived some time last decade.

Up to three people a week in eastern Australia are being bitten by a mystery spider that causes excruciating pain, deep skin-death and permanent scars.

According to Dr Struan Sutherland, venom expert from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, serious reactions include shock, prostration and severe diarrhoea; one patient developed kidney problems and died. Most necrotic bites have occurred in Victoria.

Dr Sutherland says two spiders - a type of wolf spider [*genus Lycos*] and the white-tailed spider [*Lampona cylindrata*] are suspected. The latter spider is commonly found in bedrooms and gardens.

Antarctic Nuclear Tests?

Israel tested three nuclear devices in the Norwegian sector of Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and South Africa, according to an Egyptian Government newspaper.

Al-Ahram said the first test - in September 1979 - was in Queen Maud Land (Norwegian Antarctic Territory claimed by the Nazis in WWII). South Africa allegedly assisted in this detonation; the second test was on March 5th, 1986 and the third was on December 3rd that year, according to an unsourced front-page article by its military editor.

The article said the U.S. and the Soviet Union monitored the explosions, but Norway announced that these seismic readings resulted from avalanches.

In the last two tests, 1,150 Israeli civilian and military personnel were sent to the Norwegian Antarctic sector, following the signing of a secret agreement with Norway and South Africa in 1985. They travelled on a ship bearing the Liberian flag owned by the Israeli shipping company Zim.

South Africa sent 260 personnel and Norway 670 in a declared 'exploration expedition'.

South African Bomb

In late December 1986 *The Observer* reported that South Africa was building an Antarctic airstrip on Marion Island to prepare the site for nuclear tests.

"South Africa probably exploded a nuclear test device in the area in 1979 and the airstrip is very likely to have military implications," said British nuclear expert Mr Frank Barnaby, ex-director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Mr Barnaby believed the island could be a missile test site for conventional and nuclear warheads. *The Observer* claimed Israeli and South African military repeatedly visited the island over two years.

Mordechai Vanunu, Israeli nuclear technician recently jailed for 18 years, told the *Sunday Times* Israeli nuclear scientists made regular trips to South Africa.

The *Al-Ahram* report said Israel has now ceased activity in Antarctica.



Soils Ain't Soils

A new study shows that conventional farms lose four times more topsoil each year than organic farms.

A joint study by the US Department of Agriculture and the University of Maine focused on two adjoining farms - one practised crop rotation and used green manure while the other used artificial fertilisers. Both grew mainly wheat.

Over thirty-seven years the conventional (chemical) farm lost 21 centimetres of topsoil while the organic farm only lost 5cm. After fifty years all the topsoil on the 'chemical' farm will have disappeared.

The conventional farm loses almost three times more soil yearly than is naturally replaced, unlike topsoil on the organic farm.

The study also showed that the organic farmer needs to plough less often since the green manure crop fertilises the soil, whereas the conventional farmer has to plough during winter to apply inorganic fertilisers. Ploughing damages the soil structure and increases topsoil loss.

Green Manure

As green manure crops (lucerne, legume, mustard etc) grow they protect topsoil from the force of rain and wind. Ploughing them in provides humus (organic matter) to the soil, reducing water runoff.

In Australia average farm topsoil loss is 20 tonnes per acre per year and we have lost half our topsoil since European colonisation.

- *Thanks to Nature, Vol 330, p370*

DES BALL AND THE BASES

Australia has its own research institute for strategic issues, the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra. Its head is Professor Des Ball, one of the world's foremost experts on military politics, nuclear strategy and weapons.

His interest in defence issues began when he was studying during the Vietnam years. Arrested in front of Parliament House carrying a placard saying "I shall not fight in Vietnam", his case was dismissed by Justice John Kerr (later Governor-General). This prolific author's books have received international acclaim.

In 1980 *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate: American Installations in Australia* was published. Dedicated "for a sovereign Australia", this book made information on the US installations public. For the first time the UK/USA Agreement on intelligence cooperation, the CIA and the US DSP (Defense Support Program) satellites, were linked together for Australians to see. Most information on public record about these installations had been gained in spite of the efforts of Australian authorities.

'Mature Partner'

While our authorities were excessively secretive about the bases, the Americans also have a history of withholding information. Ex-Prime Ministers Gorton, McMahon and Whitlam have all revealed that they were ignorant of aspects of base operations. Now, after the trial of Christopher Boyce, the memoirs of Victor Marchetti (former assistant to CIA Executive and Deputy Directors) and the 'Pine Gap Discrimination Case' (documented by P.L. Kealy, an Australian computer operator who worked at Pine Gap from 1970 to 1975), the Australian public and government are much better informed about the roles of US bases here.

The result has been a new approach to our involvement with the US and, to quote Des Ball, "that Australia can no longer be taken for granted. Any future Australian involvement with American defence, scientific and intelligence operations will be as a mature partner rather than merely as a suitable piece of real estate".

New Revelations

Now there are two new books on the American installations from Des Ball. *A Base for Debate* deals with the US Satellite station at Nurrungar and *Pine Gap* with the most important US installation in Australia.

Nurrungar is a ground station for the DSP. These stations operate three Code 647/DSP early warning satellites - one over the Indian ocean controlled from Nurrungar, another over the Pacific and one above South America. They provide full coverage of all areas from which ICBMs (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles) or SLBMs (Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles) could be launched against the US, giving them some 25-30 minutes and 10-20 minutes warning respectively. This system is at the heart of the US deterrent posture, which is to launch a retaliatory strike on warning of a Soviet missile attack.



Peace Strategies

The two arguments used by the Australian government for the base at Nurrungar are:

- (1) It plays a critical role in supporting the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty and the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty, which have been instrumental in containing the spread of nuclear weapons.
- (2) The DSP system helps maintain global stability by making it impossible for the Soviet Union to conduct a ballistic missile launch without the US being immediately aware of it. Also, by being able to confirm any such launch the system significantly reduces the chance of accidental war (due to computer malfunction, for example).

War Strategies

Against this has to be weighed the fact that the capabilities and operations of the DSP system can be used to support nuclear war-fighting strategies - the controlled use of nuclear weapons in a 'tit-for-tat' nuclear ex-

change. The infrared telescope on DSP satellites can detect the launch of a missile and the approximate location (within 3 nautical miles) of its launch site. This information is essential for planning a counter-strike.

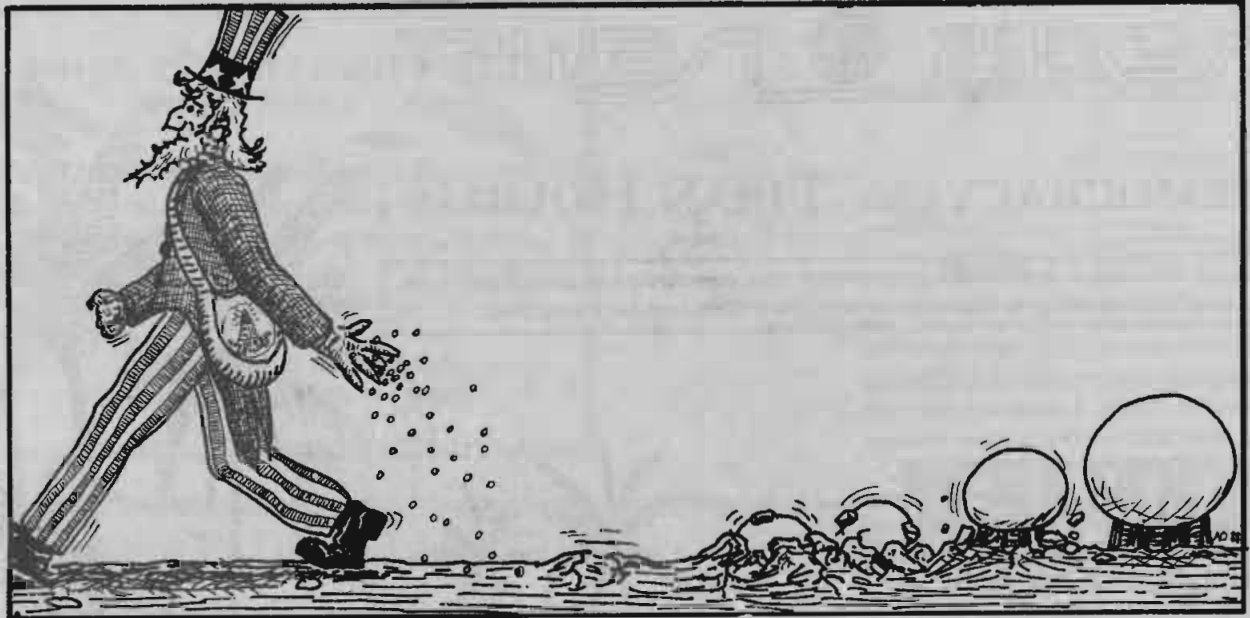
The nuclear detonation detection sensors aboard the satellites are designed with nuclear war-fighting in mind, rather than arms-control agreements. These provide real-time information on the location of nuclear detonations. There is also a potential role for the DSP systems in the Strategic Defence Initiative as the satellites undergo evolutionary development.

Significantly, technology is making it unnecessary to have a ground station in Australia. Truck-mounted DSP terminals have been developed; satellite-to-satellite laser links will improve communications between themselves and the ground.

Therefore the real argument is about the relative roles of the early-warning and war-fighting capabilities of the system. Des Ball's conclusion is "that an assessment of the strategic and technical considerations comes out against Australia's continual involvement in the DSP system".

North West Cape

Of the three major US bases in Australia, the situation with North West Cape is the most clear-cut. The station has nothing at all to do with arms control - the main justification used for Nurrungar and Pine Gap. Further, Australia has no access to the messages which pass through it.



According to Ball, "the station is quite simply incompatible with Australian sovereignty... the station does not have to be located in Australia in order to perform its communications functions. The US should therefore be given notice that the North West Cape agreement will expire in 1988."

Pine Gap

Des Ball finds the arguments for and against Pine Gap more finely balanced. It is an espionage base designed and operated to gather signals intelligence (SIGINT), primarily from the Soviet Union, but unavoidably from elsewhere. At issue is the capability of geostationary SIGINT satellites, their value to the arms control process and the "unique importance of a ground station in central Australia for efficient and secure control" of these satellites.

Pine gap was established as part of the *Rhyolite Program* run by the CIA's satellite coordinating agency, the National Reconnaissance Office. Since the original Rhyolite satellites, there have been second-generation (*Aquacode*) and third-generation (*Chalet*) spacecraft. In January 1985 a Magnum satellite - the largest geostationary satellite ever launched - was put into orbit by the space shuttle *Discovery*. This satellite probably had an antenna 100 metres in diameter, capable of picking up radios the size of a wristwatch. Pine Gap is the most important US SIGINT ground station.

There are four significant categories of signals monitored by these satellites. **Telemetry** is the electronic flow of data from a missile during its flight - engine, fuel, guidance system, etc. Although the Soviets now computer-

encrypt the signal, most of this data is still extremely valuable for verification of SALT agreements on offensive missiles.

Radar intelligence is linked to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty. Since 1974 there have been four alleged Soviet violations of this treaty over size, mobility and location of their radars. Getting the data for verification of this arms control treaty also involves Pine Gap.

The other two categories are **Soviet satellite-to-ground communication**, which is largely encrypted - and **radio and telephone message traffic** from Soviet, Chinese, and Southeast Asian areas - among others. Although these satellites are not directed against Australian communications (confirmed by former Australian Pine Gap employees critical of management), there is always the chance of Australian transmissions being collected. So the real question is "What happens to the recordings of the Australian transmissions - are they destroyed, or passed back unread to the Australian intelligence and security agencies, or are they retained and those of interest read and analysed by the CIA and NSA?"

With eight radomes and a huge computer room (at least), Pine Gap is the fourth largest satellite ground station in the world. To relocate the station would cost over US\$2 billion. Each week there are two *Starlifter* flights through Alice Springs to collect the thousands of reels of SIGINT tape, so no-one can intercept transmissions back to the US.

Since the mid-1970s, when allegations of exclusion of Australians from the day-to-day management of the station were commonplace, new administrative arrangements have

been put in place. Des Ball considers that "there now seems no reason to disbelieve that the Australian Government is not fully apprised of all aspects of the US geostationary SIGINT satellite program, at least insofar as Pine Gap is involved, and that Australian officers do not fully participate in all the decision-making and day-to-day operations of Pine Gap."

Controversial View

As the most respected Australian analyst, Ball's conclusions have to be taken very seriously. His arguments for the closure of North West Cape and Nurrungar will find wide agreement, but his view on Pine Gap will be more controversial.

Technological trends will make SIGINT satellites and Pine Gap more important - unlike Nurrungar - and deep cuts in strategic nuclear forces depends on reliable verification. This is currently only provided by the SIGINT program. Therefore, "it is simply not possible to seriously support arms control and disarmament and at the same time argue for the closure of the Pine Gap station."

Des Ball believes that radical cuts in the number of nuclear weapons are now possible. **Cuts of 90% are being studied on both sides.** For this sort of disarming to become reality, Pine gap is presently essential.

A Base for Debate: The US Satellite Station at Nurrungar, and Pine Gap: Australia and the US Geostationary Signals Intelligence Satellite Program are both published by Allen & Unwin Australia, at \$9.95 each.

- Gerard

DEMOCRACY TAKES A FIJIAN HOLIDAY

Dr Timoci Bavadra, whose Fijian government was overthrown in a coup last year, explains why democracy in that country may have been lost for a long time.

“When we assembled in Melbourne for the inaugural conference of South Pacific Progressive Parties, I could not help but notice that half of the parties present operate in undemocratic countries.

There were eight countries represented at the conference, with a party from each. Four came from Melanesia, two from Polynesia and one each from Australia and New Zealand...

The unstable and impermanent nature of coalition governments in Port Moresby, coupled with the rising involvement of the Indonesian military in the country's political process is an alarming development in our region. And half of New Guinea's land mass is occupied by the Indonesians, denying the indigenous Melanesian majority in West Papua any hope of democratic decision-making over their own affairs.

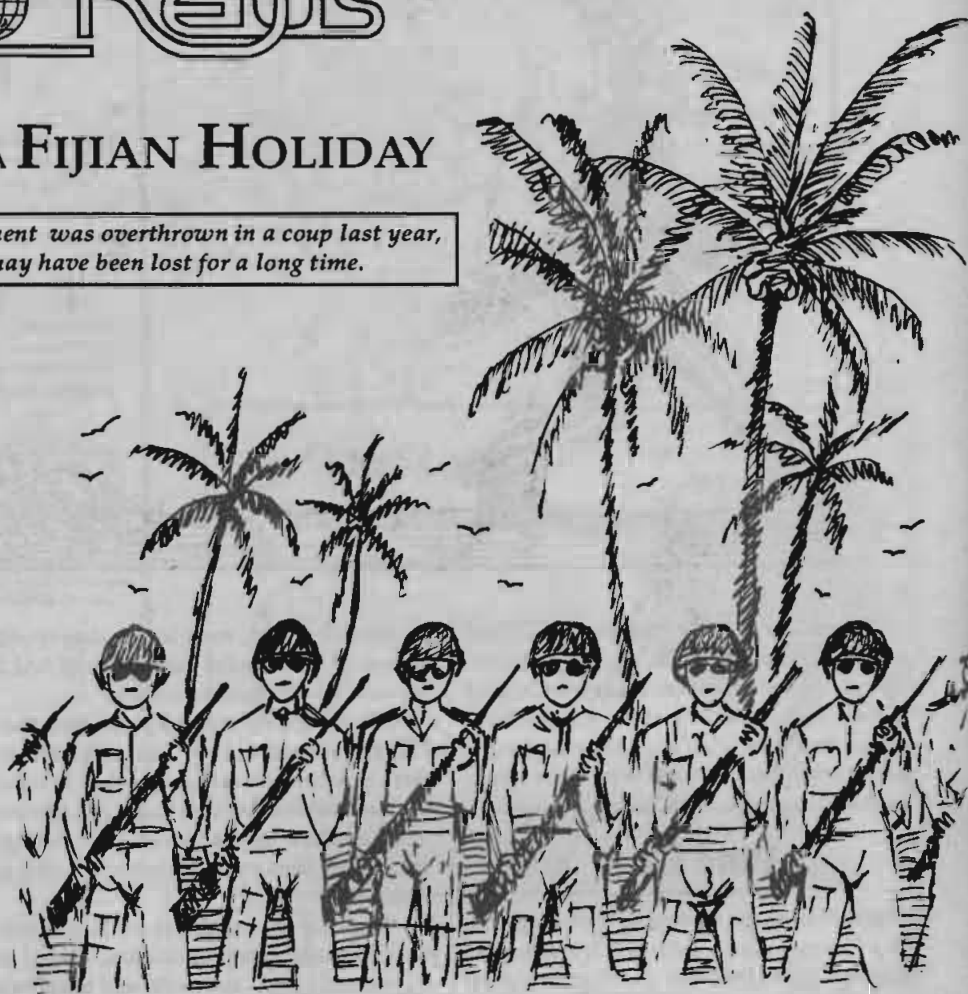
Looking east to Polynesia the situation is no better. Western Samoa and Tonga are autocracies in which clan chiefs constitutionally dominate the political process, to the exclusion of commoners.

A number of other parties have shown interest in our new regional organisation, particularly those from French Polynesia, Vanuatu and Palau. Again though, only Vanuatu is a sovereign democracy. In Palau the people and their leaders have been subject to the most extreme harassment by the Americans, while French Polynesia remains subject to colonial occupation.

First Pacific Coup?

Injected into this scenario on May 14 last year was the Fiji coup. It was the Pacific's first coup, and as such its fallout is widespread and potentially tragic.

At the Melbourne conference, the Fiji issue was viewed as the most important issue facing the region. People are genuinely fearful that their own tenuous hold on democracy, or at least stability, could be shattered by forces in their own country choosing to follow the examples set by Sitiveni Rabuka. At present most of this concern is focused on PNG.



Even before the coup, Fiji was unusual in the Pacific in having a relatively large, disciplined and well trained army. That army has increased to the point where it can now deploy 6,000 troops in just 24 hours.

For Brigadier Rabuka and other military leaders, Indonesia is a model of social control where the army operates at every level of society and in effect substitutes as a political party. In Indonesia, the army program is based on the concept of *Dwi Fungsi*, which translates as “two functions”. At every level of civilian society there is a parallel military structure so that military officers intervene directly in civil matters. The Command for Restoration of Security and Order uses all of these officers as part of a security/intelligence network throughout the country.

To further increase this control the army operates a program called *Abri Masak Desi* - “army enters village” - through which soldiers are directly used in civilian construction, aid and business projects at the village level.

In December, Brigadier Rabuka announced his new government, giving himself the key defence and security portfolio of Home Affairs. He also placed himself in charge of the newly established Army Auxiliary Unit.

The Army Auxiliary Unit relates directly to the Indonesian army's *Abri Masak Desi*. Troops appear in villages with construction and other projects. The unit also operates businesses. Many wear plain clothes and fulfil a surveillance role as well. The army is in effect cutting across the influence of the chiefs to establish its own power base.

In Fiji it is already difficult to determine whether a project is civilian or military. Town and council elections have been suspended. There is no consultation with the elected representatives of the people.

The army is not planning a short stay in power - it is reconstructing society to give the military long-standing and pervasive control, a development that militates strongly against the return of democracy.”

Brainwashees Sue CIA

Eight Canadians have brought the CIA to trial over medical experiments conducted on them in the 1950s and '60s. The experiments were part of a program called MK-ULTRA and were conducted in Montreal by famous Canadian psychiatrist Dr Ewen Cameron at the Allan Memorial Institute.

The plaintiffs are former medical and psychiatric patients who were referred to Dr Cameron for "therapy", but were instead subjected to various experimental brainwashing techniques including repeated injections of LSD, heavy electroshock, deep sleep therapy and a form of memory wiping called "psychic driving" - in which tapes containing negative suggestions were played for weeks on end.

In 1948 Dr Cameron was at Nuremberg, helping to write a code of ethics for medical experiments in the wake of revelations of Nazi experiments at the Nuremberg war trials. He was approached by Mr Allen Dulles (then director of the CIA) to help with the psychological examination of Rudolf Hess.

Dr Cameron died in 1967 at the age of 66 while mountain climbing. He was paid \$97,000 by the CIA. Documents uncovered by *The Toronto Star* show that the Canadian Government funded secret brainwashing experiments by his colleague. Documents obtained by the Canadians' lawyer show that Dr Cameron applied directly to the CIA for funding.

Cocaine Contras Caught



A former drug-running pilot now serving a 28-year sentence in a U.S. gaol has testified about long-standing links between Florida-based drug smugglers flying loads out of Colombia and the US-backed Contra rebels.

The disclosures before the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee indicate CIA involvement in cocaine trading operations after its aid to the Contras was stopped by the US Congress.

The pilot, Gary Betzner, got into drug-running in the early 1980s and claims one of his earliest contacts, a part-Colombian helicopter pilot named Richard Healey, helped the Contras and brought heroin and cocaine to the US.

Both pilots ferried grenades, grenade-launchers and ship-mines to the Contras through the Ilopanga Air Force Base in El Salvador. From there they flew to Colombia and picked up about 3,000 kgs of marijuana to bring back to the US.

Free Market Traders

Betzner said that a year later the now-convicted smuggler George Morales had asked Betzner to help him out of his drug indictment by running guns and ammunition to the Contras and bringing back unspecified contraband. Morales told him he'd "made a deal with the CIA".

He started flying M-60 machine guns, M-16 automatic rifles and C-4 plastic explosive to Costa Rica in 1984. On each return trip he brought back cocaine.

US Army Southern Commander General Paul Gordon previously told the sub-committee there were "fairly sizeable marijuana operations on the southern front in Nicaragua, some involving the Contras, some not."

He said if someone wanted to organise an armed undertaking "the easiest place to get the money and the guns is in the drug world."

UK DataBase In Place

The British Government's Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) is combining all health insurance records and social security benefits into a massive computerised database costing £1.6 billion.

The Social Services Secretary may give one of two American computer companies - Computer Science Corporation or Electronic Data Systems - the £100 million-a-year contract.

Electronic Data Systems is a subsidiary of General Motors and was investigated in 1986 by the immigration service after *The Guardian* published details of a company memo urging US staff to lie when entering Britain in order to work without permits.

Whoever gets the contract, nearly a quarter of the 83,000 DHSS staff will be made redundant.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) has condemned the program for its "Big Brother" aspects. The program incorporates a network of 30,000 computer terminals in DHSS offices linked to a central computer. The system's hardware is being provided by ICL and the cabling by British Telecom.

"An informal relationship between the police and the DHSS already exists for the exchange of information which relates to fraud cases. To establish a formal interchange relationship would be one simple step," the SCPS said last November when the scheme was announced.

Southeast Asian Database in Oz

The Australian National University (ANU) has been funded by the U.N. to compile a biographical database for Southeast Asia. Some Southeast Asian countries are being invited to provide information.

The Southeast Asia Biographical Database Project is developing a system with which researchers can call up data on topics such as the number and identity of people from an area who joined certain political parties, etc - information that would be of particular interest to police and intelligence organizations.

The project began in 1985 at the ANU's research school of Pacific Studies.

Running On Empty

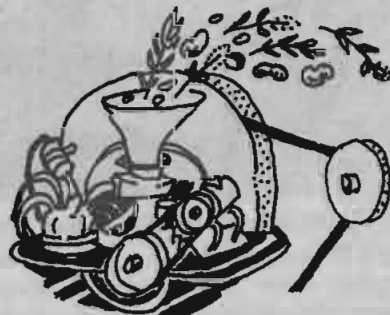
Australia's oil supplies are set to run out in the middle of the next decade, making exponential rises in petrol prices unavoidable - perhaps even desirable in terms of ecological sanity.

According to a Federal report released in March, methanol-fuelled cars are the best alternative for the near-future transition from petrol. Ford (US) is completing a line of Flexible Fuelled Vehicles (FFVs) which can run on pure methanol, gasoline or a mixture of the two. Optic sensor fuel injection technology makes it possible to run them on any combination of methanol and petrol from a single fuel tank. FFVs are designed to wean people painlessly away from petrol.

Cleaner Fuel

Methanol (methyl or 'wood alcohol') can be produced from cellulose but is commercially extracted from natural gas, so world prices are expected to remain low for a long time. Methanol releases fewer toxins into the atmosphere than petrol when burned - its main by-products are water and carbon monoxide.

The Californian Energy Commission is opening up a chain of methanol service stations and is ordering about 5,000 Ford FFVs. The Bank of America has used a fleet of 300 methanol vehicles for years, and the Japanese Government is about to begin a trial of 300 cars. Volkswagen is also developing an experimental model.



Viable Now

No methanol is produced in Australia at present, but BHP claims it can produce the fuel for 13 cents per litre - or 23 cents for the same energy given by a litre of petrol. This means that methanol could be retailed today for roughly the same price as a litre of petrol - and while our real oil revenue is dropping daily, Australia still has large reserves of natural gas. 80% of Australia's largest oil reserves, in Victoria's Gippsland Basin, are gone. BHP and Esso are spending \$238 million to extract oil which would only last the nation 54 days - some of the last known traces of Bass Strait oil.

A world-scale methanol plant could be designed and built in Australia within four years according to the Federal report, which encourages the introduction of methanol fuel as fast as possible.

New Euro Order (Again)

Since the dawn of the Common Market, calls for a United States of Europe have never been louder. The European Commission has released a massive study proposing a genuine single market with no internal national borders by 1992 for the whole of Europe.

Instead of 12 markets there would be one domestic market and one passport for all 320 million Europeans, with common regulations and industrial standards (and monopolies) for all.

A single financial market, taxation, banking and insurance system would make it possible to pay bills with *European Currency Units* throughout the continent. The Brussels plan calls for at least 60% of TV programming to be of EEC origin, with common codes of censorship and advertising.

11,000 companies submitted 6,000 pages to The European Challenge 1992 report, which has been criticised for a lack of supporting evidence. It claims these measures will create 5 million jobs and expand the economy by \$A437 billion.

Certain regions and industrial centres are expected to lose out badly and member governments have so far approved only about a quarter of the 'Free Market' report's 300 proposals. Removal of customs and passport controls is causing hostility in Britain and elsewhere as it would permit free transfer of plant, animal and human diseases, terrorists, illegal immigrants and drugs throughout Europe.

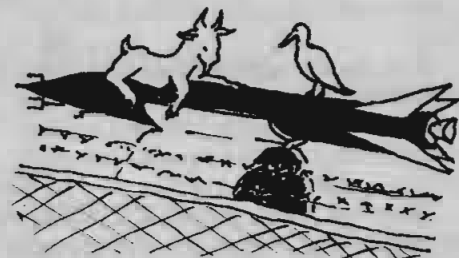
Greenham Is a Common!

Greenham Common, site of occupancy battles between women peace protesters and 96 Cruise missiles since 1983, has been declared an open common by a British Crown Court judge.

The women can do what they like on the common after the ruling that local residents have free access under medieval law. The Ministry of Defence had ignored the fact that the Berkshire base was on common land when they erected the 15-km perimeter fence, and over 1,000 protesters have had trespassing convictions overturned by the judge.

A lawyer acting in a successful appeal for two Greenham veterans argued that the Military Lands Act of 1892 specifically prevents Ministers interfering with access rights to a common. Hundreds of women may seek compensation for wrongful arrest and imprisonment as a result.

Justice Rait ruled that then-Secretary of State Michael Heseltine had exceeded his powers in 1985 when he drew up by-laws permitting police or troops to arrest protesters who enter the base and shoot those who refuse to leave.



Fifty local people also have rights to collect firewood and graze sheep, geese and ducks on the base and even damage the runway if they choose to 'dig for gravel'.

'White Rose' Imprisoned

An Anti-Nuclear 'Monkey-Wrencher' is Denied International Law Precedents

A U.S. woman has been imprisoned for single-handedly destroying an experimental global nuclear missile station.

Katya Komisaruk, 29, was sentenced to 5 years jail and US\$500,000 "restitution" in January on charges of sabotage and destruction of government property.

Early on the morning of June 2nd 1987, the Detroit business graduate hiked through hills to the three-metre chain link barbed wire fence surrounding Vandenberg Air Force Base in Southern California. Carrying her teddy bear, Judas Macabaeus, and a backpack containing tools, padlock, spray-paints, maps, box of biscuits, whistle and bouquet of flowers, she approached the top-secret floodlit communications centre of NAVSTAR (Navigation System Time & Ranging) - a crucial guidance system due to begin full operation in 1991.

Unguarded Secrets

Finding the main gates of the Air Force's third-largest base *open and unguarded*, she left the biscuit box and a note which read; "I have no gun, you must have lots. Let's not be hasty, no cheap shots. Have a cookie and a nice day." Padlocking the gates behind her, she hoped "they would be delayed defusing the cookie box." Following clearly-marked signs reading NAVSTAR, she broke into the main computer building past notices reading "Electronic alarm system in operation".

Katya climbed a tower to the main radar dish and antennae and destroyed them with drill and hammer. She climbed down, still seeing no-one, and, after spraying international law slogans on the walls, spilled hundreds of computer

microchips over the floor before dancing all over them. She emptied fire extinguishers into equipment before turning it on to complete her two-hour rampage.

Still no-one came. "Finally I got bored and was tired, so I went to the bathroom, fixed my hair, washed my face and then packed my tools and left," she said.

Turned Herself In

Katya hitchhiked home and rang the air force base to confess a few hours later, after blowing her whistle in triumph. She was arrested by the FBI at a press conference the next day at which she stated,

"NAVSTAR is a very dangerous aspect of our first-strike policy. It's better to destroy a few machines than let those machines help murder millions of people. I feel really concerned about the terrible similarity between the state of my government now and the state of Germany during the Third Reich." She had become frustrated with attending rallies and writing letters with no apparent result.

"Since I've been a little girl I've planned to have a child. But what good is it if my child is going to perish in a nuclear blast...?"

"I decided that the thing to do to prepare for the child, to be responsible, was to make a really strong statement for peace and physically disarm some of the system so the world would be a bit safer and I could raise my child with a clear conscience."

Released on \$10,000 bail, she hoped to base her defence on the Nuremberg Principle - initiated by the US against the NAZIs in WWII - which states that a citizen has the duty to interfere with their government if it is preparing for a war of aggression or crime against humanity.



She called her action the White Rose Action after a group of German university students who protested against Hitler, who were caught and executed.

Defenceless

However, in a disturbing turn of events her judge ruled that Katya couldn't explain her motives to the jury as part of her defence - nor describe the function of the FIRST-STRIKE equipment she had destroyed - nor explain why she believed destroying the mainframe was valid under international law.

She has been refused bail and waits for an appeal to be heard, which may take 10 months.

"I am frightened," she said, "not so much about being hurt physically in prison, but afraid of becoming less trusting, less warm, less open, just in order to survive."

For info or support contact the Katya Komisaruk Defence Collective, 1716 Felton St, San Francisco Ca 94134.

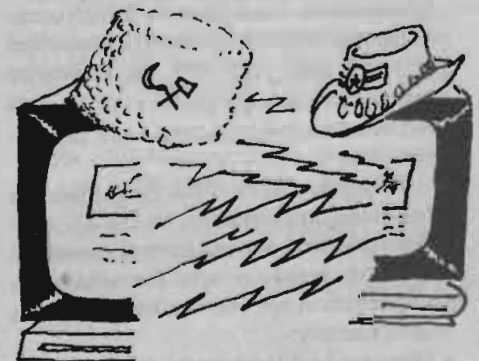
The New Hot Line

US-Soviet relations have thawed remarkably in the wake of the recent summits - a new computer link, the brainchild of Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, connects Washington and Moscow, replacing the old *Hot Line* set up in 1963.

Computer messages are sent daily between the State Department and the Kremlin. This is a joint effort by the superpowers to prevent miscalculation and misinterpretation of data that might accidentally trigger a nuclear confrontation.

Many war strategy experts believe

that accidental launches, unauthorized launches by deranged individuals, missile accidents and nuclear terrorism are a greater nuclear danger than deliberate attack. The first task of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre in Washington will be to exchange information crucial to carrying out the INF treaty. Data will be sent on exact numbers and locations of missiles, as well as details of on-site verification visits by Russians inspecting American sites and vice versa - this makes mass de-nuclearisation a real possibility.



Aboriginal Sovereignty

This affirmation of Aboriginal Sovereignty comes as an Aboriginal response to 1988 - a call for a fresh start, or Koompartoo.

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all peoples have the right to self determination; and whereas we the Aboriginal peoples and nations of the land mass now known as 'Australia' have since 1788 been denied this right by the belligerent and illegal occupation of our territories by the British Crown and it's successors - we affirm our continuing sovereign title to all our lands and territory, waters, resources, which title is derived from our spirit mother the Earth who binds us her people through our law and custom to our land;

And whereas we the Aboriginal peoples and nations have always owned and occupied and used our land in accordance with our institutions, culture and law; and

Considering that the international law of the 18th century required a colonising power to obtain new territory by treaty and/or cession from the inhabitants of that territory; and

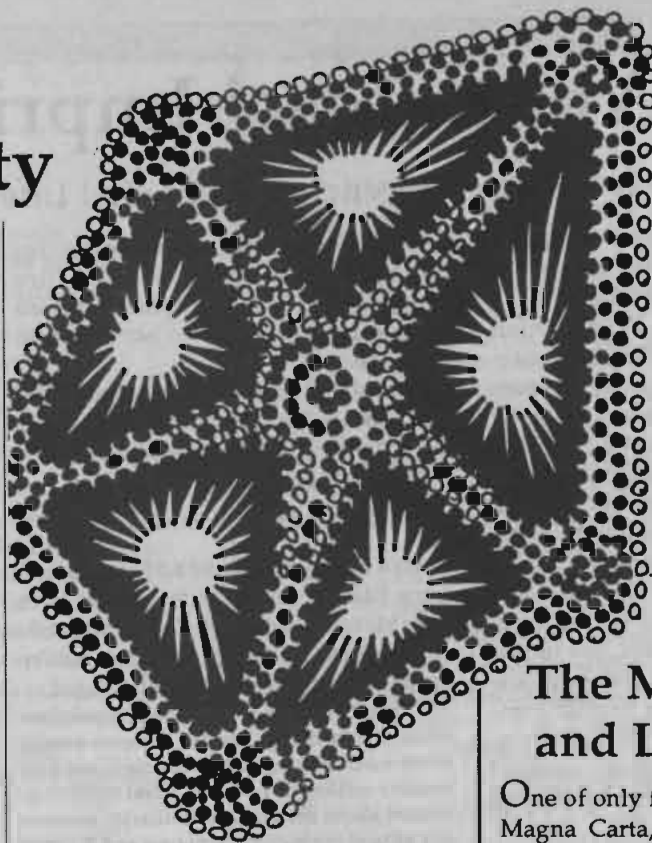
Considering that Captain James Cook, by British Admiralty instructions dated 30th July 1768, was ordered to take possession of part of the abovementioned land with the consent of the natives and that no such consent was obtained; and

Considering that the proclamation of British sovereignty made by Captain James Cook over the East Coast of Australia was made in breach of his letters of instruction so that such proclamation was an illegal act; and

Further considering that since 1770 there has been no act of treaty, cession, nor acquiescence to the illegal invasion of our territories - and that the British occupation has been continuously disturbed by wars and civil acts of resistance mounted by our ancestors - which acts we, their descendants, to this day, do continue; and

Taking into account the illegal seizure of our land and territory, we the Aboriginal peoples and nations have suffered the following grievous acts for which no compensation nor redress has ever been made, namely:

- Trespass and land theft, past and continuing



Koompartoo

- Genocide and Ethnicide - partial and whole
- Continuous violations of human rights to work, raise a family, practise religion and language
- To freedom of movement and association, and natural justice and the right to life -

We Hereby Affirm

We the Aboriginal peoples and nations affirm our sovereign rights and ways established and provided by our ancestors and our supreme creator, Baiame, and all other totemic spirits through the dreaming to this day. Our sacred dreaming flows from our mother, the Earth and from our ancestors who lived before the time of King George III of England and his servants Captain James Cook and Arthur Phillip.

This sacred dreaming continues in all our people today.

We hereby call upon all the peoples of the world to recognise our sovereign rights to our lands and territories, waters and other resources contained therein together with our sacred cultural and religious rights.

We further call upon all the peoples of the world to condemn the attempts to steal and destroy our territories and culture and we ask for their support for our historic struggle for an act of decolonisation so that we can freely determine our political, cultural and economic future.

The Magna Carta and Land Rights

One of only four original copies of The Magna Carta, signed by King John at Runnymede in 1215, is on display at Brisbane's Expo 88. It was brought to Australia by its guardian, Canon Davis, the Australian subdean of Lincoln Cathedral in Britain.

The Magna Carta is the basis of constitutional law; it prepared the ground for human rights as we know them today. It emphasises that people should not be dispossessed of their land, that they have a right to trial by jury and to freedom.

Although it was forced upon King John by land-grabbers and robber barons, the Magna Carta is remarkably contemporary in its emphasis on land rights, liberty and justice. To quote from the document:

"If anyone has been disseised [sic] or deprived by us without lawful judgement of his peers of lands, castles, liberties or his rights we will restore them to him at once.... No free man shall be taken and imprisoned or disseised or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor shall we send against him, except by the lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay the right to justice."

Canon Davis has said that with good advocates, the Aboriginals could have used the Magna Carta years ago to secure land rights. Earlier this year the Anglican Church formally asked for forgiveness from the Aboriginal people for two centuries of continued injustice.

Pulp Mill Plan

A proposal for a \$1 billion pulp and paper mill in the environmentally sensitive East Gippsland area seems set to cause conflict between the Victorian and Federal Governments and the conservation movement.

The East Gippsland Coalition - whose associates and members include the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Victorian National Parks Association and the Wilderness Society - has warned that it will turn the project into an election issue and begin a political campaign against it.

Forests for Jobs

The proposed mill could employ up to 800 full-time workers producing eucalypt and business paper for the international market, which would necessitate export licenses granted by the Federal Government.

Executives from AMCOR Ltd told a meeting that the project would require the harvesting of 1.4 million tonnes of timber a year in the region - far in excess of the 1 million tonnes sustainable yield estimated by the Victorian Government. Conservationists claim that Amcor plan to establish plantations which would 'mature' in only 40 years.

Some conservationists see the mill proposal as a "pay-back" to residents angered by the State Government's recent moves to claim more National Park land in the area.

The timber industry has also launched a campaign that focuses on regeneration after logging, which is being led in Victoria by the State Sawmillers Association. Sawmillers say regeneration could be almost universally successful if forest management procedures were improved. However conservationists describe regeneration as inconsistent at best, and at worst, destructive. It is a crucial issue as two-thirds of Victoria's forests can be logged, according to State forestry officer Gus Geary.

Sawmillers Association public affairs manager Mr Steve Guest claims that in East Gippsland some 40-year old regrowth has been proposed for World Heritage listing, which apparently demonstrates the success of regrowth in the area.

Ms Linda Parlane of the East Gippsland Coalition denies that any logged area in her locality has been proposed for World Heritage listing. She says that a survey by the Department of Conservation, Forest and Lands (CFL) showed that between 1979 and 1982 up to 40% of logged forest had not regenerated successfully in selected areas.

Lifetime of Growth

A colleague, Mr Andrew Booth, says forest marked for logging is rotated in eighty year cycles, but it takes more than a century for eucalypts to mature. In 80 years eucalypts do not develop the hollows that become homes for ledbetter possums, gliders and some species of birds; certainly not in 40 years.

While Mr Geary, CFL manager for the Alexandra region, defends his department's record he agrees; "every animal on a coupe dies when an area is clear-felled - that is just the way it is."



China Reforestation

The massive forest fires which recently destroyed around 650,000 ha of forest in northern China cost the Forest Minister his job and the nation an estimated US\$150 million. However, just 3% of the nation's forest cover was lost, thanks to the China's commitment to reforestation.

In the early 1950s tree cover had dropped to about 8% of land area. When the Republic was founded in 1949 the political leadership had the vision to understand the relationship between agriculture and forestry. Large scale deforestation had already begun to take its toll on agricultural production.

The need for reforestation was converted into the slogan "Cover the Nation With Trees". The National People's Congress has monitored developments ever since, boosting the program when necessary.

Forest cover has already risen to 12.6% and from 1986 to 1990, five million hectares are being planted annually. China's aim is to have 30% of the country under tree cover. Of the 122 million ha of forest in China, about 40 million are human-made forests planted over the last 37 years.

Ord Paper Scheme

A multi-million-dollar plan has been drawn up to triple agricultural production along the Ord River and set one of Australia's most remote communities on an economic roller-coaster.

If successful, it will create hundreds of new jobs in the far north-western town of Kununurra and have a domino effect which could trigger the development of the region's huge natural gas resources.

At the centre of the plan is an attempt to find a radical solution to the world's soaring demand for paper.

The CSIRO and Western Australian Government agricultural researchers want to cultivate a fast-growing African plant, kenaf, which can replace trees to produce the raw pulp needed to manufacture everything from newsprint to high quality paper for banknotes and bibles.

The West Australian Minister for Agriculture, Mr Grill, has passed on a report of the plan to five major companies - so far unnamed - asking them to conduct feasibility studies.

"Concern over the destruction of forests throughout the world makes the production of fibre crops for paper pulp particularly appealing," Mr Grill said. "An annual renewable crop such as kenaf could open up the way for Australia to make significant inroads into it's \$147 million a year import bill for pulp for paper production."

Since the collapse of the local cotton industry in the 1970s, the Ord has been without a large scale "strategic crop". Researchers feel that kenaf, which reaches maturity in just six months, could fill that gap.

At present only 5,000ha of the irrigation scheme is under cultivation. Under the kenaf plan at least 17,000ha would be opened up.



Changing the Constitution

When the Australian Constitution was formulated at the turn of the century, it was expected to be updated to keep abreast of the times. Some important changes now seem overdue.

According to Section 128 of the Constitution, any change must come from a referendum of the people. But at present, referendums to change the Constitution can be triggered only by Federal Parliament. According to Ian Cunliffe, secretary to the Constitutional Commission, "a surprisingly wide range of people" submitted proposals arguing that 'Citizens Initiated Referenda' or 'Direct Democracy' should be enshrined in the Constitution.

The system, which already works successfully in Switzerland and parts of the US, enables a specific number of voters (eg 500,000 or 5% of the electorate) to initiate a referendum by petition.

This encourages active participation in the political process by enabling people to vote for issues, not just parties and faces. *And the public decides the issues.*

This may concentrate even more real power in the hands of burgeoning media monopolies at first, with their ability to sway public opinion. But it can be argued that people become harder to influence as they become more aware of issues. Referenda also take economically or politically contentious legislation out of the hands of government and private power-brokers.

The Constitutional Commission's Advisory Committee on Individual Rights is recommending that debate on voter-initiated legislation, legislative veto and removal of office-holders

should be deferred until voter-initiated constitutional referendums have been examined by the Commission, which is due to report to the Federal Government by June 30th.

Taking a Punt

Referendums can be expensive and difficult to organise - but technology is providing some interesting alternatives. While computer vote registration systems can count very quickly and inexpensively, their integrity is only as good as their programmers'. The last US Federal election results were probably falsified by a new computer voting system which was weighted to give a biased result across one-third of US States! But similar problems can occur with ballot boxes - even when they're not made of cardboard. A Democracy is only as good as its processes allow. Checks and balances must be evolved for all such problems, and computerisation can make direct representation work.

In Australia a computerised system is already in place in almost every suburb, town and village, networked across the nation, which is about as secure as we can make it. This system is already designed to count things and to be accountable for errors. It is relatively safe from tampering as BILLIONS of dollars go through it. The Totalisator Agency Board - The T.A.B., already organised along State boundaries! Perhaps the tool for making participatory democracy possible in Australia is here, a true outgrowth of our culture.

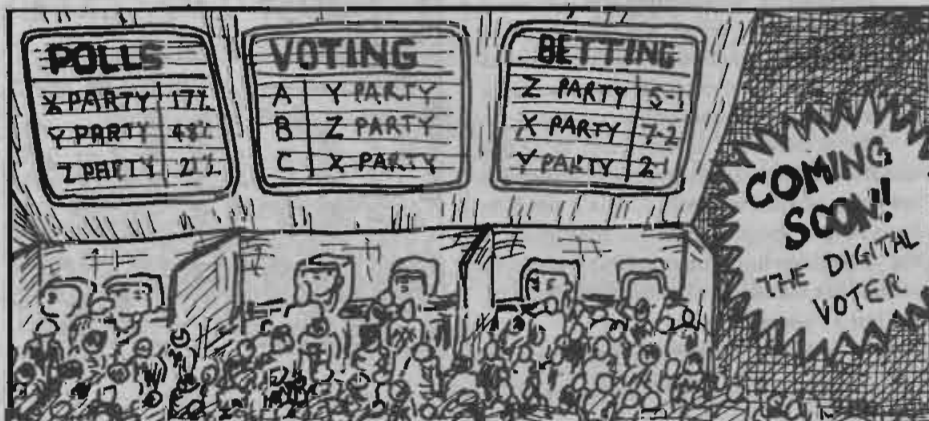
It's a bit like a horse race, really.

World's Oldest Computer

A model of a machine built around 80BC has been built at Sydney University.

The *Antikythera Device* - found near the Greek island of that name by sponge-divers in 1900 - is now a badly corroded lump of metal, which makes it difficult to determine just what it did. But Professor Allan Bromley of the Basser department of computer science and Frank Percival, a part-time clock-maker and retired engineer, have made a working model using 2,000 year old technology to solve the mystery of its purpose.

Thirty years ago an American professor unravelled the inner workings of the device using X-rays. Using this research, their delicate model of cogs and gears appears to be capable of predicting eclipses over an 18-year cycle. A handle on the side smoothly turns a pointer, which moves to a new square each new moon. After 223 months (18 years) the cycle is completed; another set of gears shows the cycles of the moon, while still others on the original device are suspected to show planetary positions - perfect for astronomical observation and navigation.



HUMUNGOUS BERGS SAIL NORTH

One of the world's biggest icebergs, which broke away from the Ross Ice Shelf last October, is heading toward the shipping lanes off Antarctica. Called Berg 9, it is 144 km long and 32 km wide.

Berg 9 is the latest iceberg to break from Antarctica after two years of glacial breakup. Mr Stanley Jacobs, an oceanographer at Columbia University's Geophysical Observatory, said, "If you just look at 1986 and 1987, there have been some extreme events. You couldn't have the ice beaking away at this rate every year or the ice sheet would soon be seriously out of balance."

Yet it is not even the largest ice mass to escape from the Antarctic. Two larger icebergs broke off from the Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986.

The bulk of Berg 9 equals half a year's snowfall on the entire Antarctic conti-



nent. The iceberg is a surprise to scientists, who are already studying the link between the greenhouse effect and the rise of the sealevel. Berg 9 alone accounts for a 3mm rise in the Earth's oceans.

However, most scientists doubt that the Earth's warming is speeding up the breakup of the icecap - iceberg formation is an erratic process anyway, with years of ice accumulation followed by catastrophic breakup. But few discount the possibility.



ROYAL ASSENT DROPS AXE ON FOREST WORK

The Federal Government's conservation legislation received Royal assent just in time to stop Queensland rainforest loggers from picking up tools at the beginning of the new logging season.

Subject to weather conditions, the northern rainforests would have been reopened to logging in early April.

Under the new Conservation Legislation Amendment Act, the Government has the power to control commercial activity in the forests until a decision is made about their World Heritage Listing.

Announcing the granting of Royal assent, Minister for the Environment Senator Richardson said that commercial forestry operations in the rainforests would be unlawful until November - when the World Heritage Committee is expected to hand down its decision.



Tree Farm Project

Western Australian President of *The Men of the Trees* Barry Oldfield and world-renowned conservationist Professor David Bellamy have embarked on an ambitious farming project, the *Tree Farm Project*, to tackle the difficult task of regenerating arid land and developing a form of arid agriculture which is financially and ecologically sustainable.

The key to sustainable farming is having diversity of produce; it means returning to mixed farming.

But the first task of the project will be to lift the burden of debt from farms as this poses one of the greatest threats to their sustainability - economically and environmentally. Debt servicing requires more intensive use and depletion of soil to pay off the extra burden.

Profit from the land should be turned back into the land instead of into debt servicing; otherwise the land suffers. As

explained by Barrie Oldfield, "we need to create a multiple farm-based project that will provide the data encouraging the natural flow of money back into the land via sustainable farming."

Our Choices

Democrat Senator Janet Powell told Parliament: "One scenario is that a few individuals and businesses - often foreign-based or foreign-owned - will be owning most of the productive agricultural land in this country with a continuing emphasis on intensive farming, pesticide-high monoculture and the traditional crops and stocks - the ones we are used to such as wheat, wool, beef and so on."

Another scenario is support by government and rural finance institutions to actively encourage farmers to adopt ecologically sustainable farming practices.

"The benefits of sustainable agriculture," Senator Powell said in Parliament, "include the greater likelihood that small farmers will be able to survive economically... The enhancement of the soil is particularly important and is possible through ecologically conscious farming practices."

Today, farming and banking don't mix well. Bankers see farming - and conservation work - as a "high risk" area.

Bill Mollison has been instrumental in establishing ethically sound banking and has argued that environmentalists who keep their money in most banks are investing in ecologically destructive enterprises. We need financial institutions that invest in such things as sustainable agriculture. Mollison is at present calling for people to write to him to help form an ethical bank.

(His address is P.O. Box 1, Tyalgum, NSW, 2484.)

The Dark Goddess

and the Sixth Sense

The Dark Goddess and the Sixth Sense, a new book by Michael Redgrave, shows the inherent selective blindness of modern humanity and how things repressed - symbolised by the 'dark senses' and the female - are rising to balance human vision once again.

This book paints breathtaking pictures of the modern mindscape in relation to the 'myths' of Oedipus and the Sphinx and shows how, like Oedipus, self-blinding, self-mutilating patriarchies have led humanity to believe it is the end-point of evolution, having solved all 'important' mysteries.

These deep and active symbols also indicate how the warrior religions overturned earlier, more homogenous cultures all over the world which were also more in tune with their environment - cultures which had day-to-day access to the self-evident 'mysteries' were systematically subsumed by more aggressive groups, who had numbed their true 'sensuous perceptions' by alienating the sexes and senses in their daily habits and taboos.

This schism in the species, according to Redgrave, is being slowly healed from within - by the sublime senses and super-senses which we have submerged - but not eradicated.

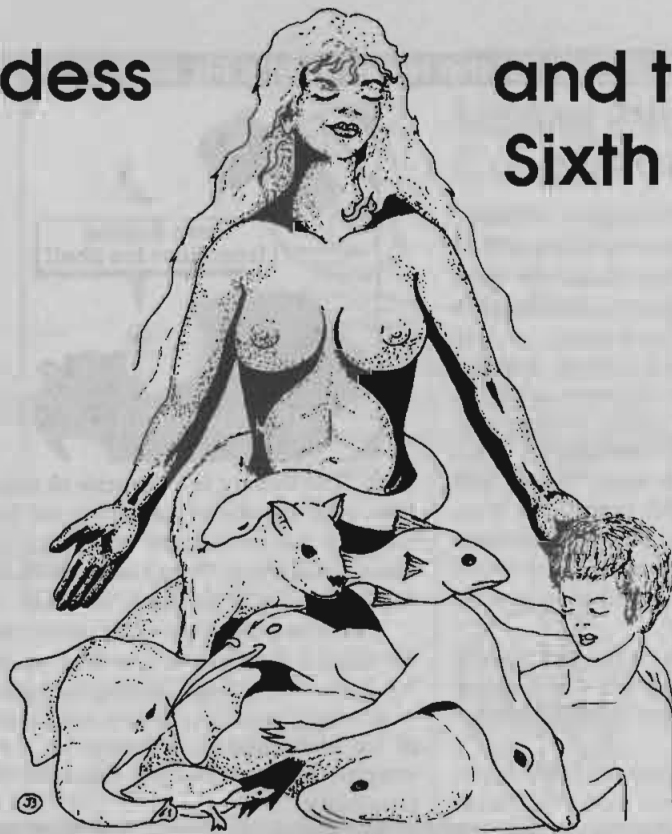
He explores the multi-channelled communications systems of nature, many of which we are still only re-discovering in ourselves and other species. His flowing prose illuminates a living planet aswarm with multi-faceted symphonies which surround and interpenetrate us all. He takes us swimming through a dazzling spectrum of sensory modes, pointing out:

"There are more than 70 octaves of electromagnetic radiation, and the human being acknowledges the visibility of less than one octave, our sight being cramped, as it were, between the red and the violet; the colour of our arterial and intravenous blood".

Sight itself takes up about 80% of 'normal' sensory brain function; like Oedipus, 'civilized' humanity has been 'blinding' itself to the bulk of 'peripheral' information bombarding us for millennia.

Redgrave - co-author with Penelope Shuttle of the widely-acclaimed *Wise Wound*, about the rediscovery of the rhythms of the female body - describes recent studies of animal intelligence and the sophisticated versatility of animal communication forms, touching on the nature of instinct as an agencies of the multi-channelled life-force of Gaia.

He claims that modern humans have willingly separated themselves from much of their environment, consciously acknowledging only a tiny portion of reality.



Visual, audial, tactile, infra-red (heat), chemical and electromagnetic sensitivity are discussed and explored as modes of communication - an example being the 'external hormones' or pheromones which allow communication between humans, insects and plants - even across species boundaries.

"The chemical constituents of animal and plant hormones, sex pheromones and messenger systems in plants and animals are all closely similar. This is why, for instance, the pig responds to the truffle - the latter emits a sex odour-chemical almost identical to the pig's own; and why you find human insulin in a common bacterium." From the healing of warts and cancers by hypnosis and the nature of the immune system, to the human effects of modern mass-communications and insect antennae being tuned to the electromagnetic spectrum, *The Dark Goddess and the Sixth Sense* is a goldmine of interconnected facts and very recent scientific revelations. For instance, keratin - a common protein found in hair and nails - is piezo-electric. It actually *generates* electricity under pressure.

"Gases containing free-flowing organic materials, like pheromones, are especially voracious of infra-red microwaves, and the organic molecules will re-radiate this energy that is poured into them, although it will be transformed by the vibratory system of the particular molecule."

Science is coming to tentative explanations of such concepts as auras and the existence of an underlying 'morphogenetic field' or 'collective conscious' actually detectable in the electromagnetic spectrum!

"...One view of atomic structure is that matter itself is like an interference pattern between waves... matter is a particular form of electromagnetism..."

The 'onlooker' or 'spectator' consciousness of Western science from Aristotle to today is reviewed and compared to such concepts as *Chi* and *Feng-Shui* from China and other cultures more aware of the "radiant continuum" of life than our own.

In our pursuit of logic we have been led inexorably toward a recognition of 'invisible' forces. In our denial of the sensuous invisibles we create invisible terrors due to the blind-spots we refuse to see and the numb places we refuse to feel.

This book shows how culturally-implanted antisensual isolation and guilt have led to a repression of our super-senses, magical belief systems and even non-abstract Romantic art. All apparently 'acausal' phenomena are tidily ignored in this neat Aristotelian world, whose denizens, ignoring their imaginations, ignore an organ of perception into unknown realms.

From this pit of sublimation, the 'Dark Goddess' of our own suppressed nature rises all-pervading; like the Sphinx, a mediatrix who can reconcile apparent opposites into a fused complementary whole, freeing both females and males, humans and animals from their unreal abstractions of each other.

The Dark Goddess and the Sixth Sense is destined, like the *Gaia Hypothesis*, to radically change the perceptions of any who read it.

Published by Allen & Unwin
▲ - R. Ayana

Living In a Global Greenhouse

The thing that most people tend to ask about the climatic changes affecting the planet concerns the time frames involved. The thermal - heat - expansion of the oceans means a greater amount of crustal movement. The weight of the water affects spin, it affects balance, it affects the Earth's axis, it affects the Earth's magnetism... It could take a hundred years to settle down. It's more likely to take several hundred.

We are at the culmination of what would normally be a 10,000 year-long interglacial period. Theoretically it should be occurring within a short geological time from now. There's no real understanding of why the Ice Ages come and go. From what we know about the rhythm of the previous Ice Ages, we should be on the verge of another one. Why it happens is unknown, so how the Greenhouse Effect will impact on it is completely open to speculation.

Ice Age or Greenhouse?

From the research of Dr Felgenhauer in Canberra, there does seem to be a slight decrease at the moment in the amount of radiation being emitted by the Sun - this may be a rhythmic event. This may well be the cycle which is the trigger for our cyclical Ice Ages. If this is so, then the Greenhouse Effect may effectively counter that cooling of the Sun. We may be counteracting what is traditionally an Ice Age period - but we are completely haphazard in our management.

The CSIRO has a computer program which models the climatic movements in the upper atmosphere of the northern and southern hemispheres, but at this stage it is not air-sea interactive. The model is based on the chemical composition of different layers. They're modelling all the Greenhouse gases, including ozone.

CFCs interact with ozone in different meteorological conditions, explaining the hole in the ozone layer. The chemical interaction of the CFCs and the ozone takes place at a certain gradient of temperature. The CFCs do the most damage at the end of winter when the radiation from the Sun is hitting the Antarctic atmosphere at a specific angle. As soon as the direct solar radiation hits the ozone in

the summer it reforms and the hole repairs itself. It's a seasonal occurrence. It may well have existed in different degrees in the past long before we knew about it or before we could record it. The data has increased to a great level since the early 1980s. As soon as the scientists had knowledge about it, they had concerns about it.

There have been reports of fluctuations in the ozone levels over New Zealand and at a particular time each year for the last three years. The scientists think they have a "trend" in the data. They've got so much data it is just trend analysis. And there was a report recently that there were ozone fluctuations in the upper atmosphere above Scandinavia.

The Polar Platform

Only two years ago no one even thought of looking at ozone with the billions of dollars worth of telemetry and communications satellites - everyone was looking for oil, coal and gold. Now there is an enormous shift that has taken place in the space industry because of the ozone-Greenhouse effects. They expect to have real-time modelling by about 1992, when they will have enough accurate remote sensing to pump the information down to the ground, so that they can get a day-to-day computer model running.

Their state-of-the-art polar platform is a four tonne configuration of remote sensing and information gathering modules which will be geostationary, somewhere between Australia and Antarctica. It will be able to monitor every conceivable vegetative, oceanic and meteorologic change.

Seeing the effects of the global Greenhouse is causing a major shift in financial and industrial institutions. The re-insurance companies - the enormous European and North American financial institutions that insure insurance companies - are becoming nervous. The hurricane that ripped through southern England and France last year cost them \$8 billion. Holland's records go back 800 years, but don't show any hurricane like that. They're beginning to put the pressure on to get the atmospheric act together...

- Our Canberra Correspondent



EARTHQUAKES

Between the years 1897 and 1946, the average number of observed earthquakes over Richter 6 was three per decade [from 1897 we have been able to detect a Richter 6 intensity earthquake anywhere in the earth].

Between 1946 and 1956 the average jumped to seven. In the following decade, it jumped to 17 earthquakes over Richter 6. Then, in 1967, the yearly earthquake figure for richter 6 or better was seventeen!

In 1968 it was 19: in 1969 it was 21: in 1970 it was 24: and in 1971 it was 34.

However, during the decade of 1967-1976, there were 180 earthquakes over Richter 7 on the scale!

Note that in the recorded history of humanity, an estimated 74 million people have been killed either by earthquakes, or indirectly by their attendant fires, floods, landslides and disease. ▲

-The Cosmic conspiracy
by Stan Deyo

One Deadly Summer

In the summer of 1986, 35,000-40,000 more Americans dropped dead than usual.

A US statistical analysis of mortality figures for that season shows a sudden 1.1% increase over 1983-85 averages. Dr Jay Gould of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington calculated the odds against this happening by chance at more than 1 million to one. Why?

The Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion on April 26 1986 sent up a radioactive plume that reached America 11 days later. In America's northwest, comparison of levels of radioactivity per litre in rainwater samples before and after the disaster show an average increase of nearly 300%. In milk samples, radioactive iodine 131 peaked at almost 20 times the 1985 average.

Levels of radioactivity varied sharply across America, and statistics show a direct correlation between increased radioactivity levels and an increase in deaths throughout the country.

A Radical Theory

Current research into indirect effects of low-level radiation is challenging long-held notions that low levels of fallout are harmless, according to Dr Ernest Sternglass, Emeritus Professor of Radiological Physics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Instantaneous bursts of high-level radiation - such as medical X-rays - are relatively harmless to normal adults, mainly because such "external" radiation doesn't concentrate in crucial organs.

To Fry or Not To Fry

In November 1987 the British Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) called for a huge decrease in the level of radiation exposure considered "safe".

The NRPB ignored the findings of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) who met in September 1987 to discuss new long-term studies on Japanese atomic bomb victims, some of whom received radiation doses that were previously considered to be "safe".

The figures show a doubling of the fatality rate from cancers. Mr Robert Clarke (director of NRPB) said, "We cannot go on waiting. We should put people on notice. It would be wrong to wait for 2 or 3 years... People must adapt to new working practices now. Continued expo-

sure near to the dose limit represents a level of risk which verges on the unacceptable".

Australian authorities are staying with the old radiation dose limits, ensuring that workers in industry (including doctors, dentists, radiographers etc) and the public can be legally exposed to radiation levels many times greater than those considered safe overseas.

But ingested or inhaled fission products behave differently; they select various organs according to their chemical characteristics, then sit there emitting radiation.

Such low-level radiation promotes the slow release of molecules known as free radicals. The most common - oxygen free radicals - are attracted to the membranes of cells, which they then damage. Among cell functions impaired or destroyed is the production of types of white cells which provide the body's immune defences. This erosion of the immune system would be expected to hit two groups of people first: the old or weak, and those suffering from life-threatening diseases.

Compared with the summer average for 1983-85, an estimated 7.4% more people over 65 died in summer 1986. The number of people dying from pneumonia in all age groups was 18.1% higher in May-August 1986 than in the same months of 1985. Deaths from infectious diseases rose by 22.5%, and deaths caused by AIDS increased by 60.3%.

Both doctors believe that fallout from atmospheric tests in the 1950s may have weakened the immune systems of many people born in that period. As they have aged, the mortality rate of this group has increased much faster than that of those born between 1935-45.

Early analysis suggests the change in American death patterns in summer 1986 was not coincidence. If Chernobyl was the cause, a complete review of "safe" radiation levels is needed.

Both doctors believe that fallout from atmospheric tests in the 1950s may have weakened the immune systems of many people born in that period. As they have aged, the mortality rate of this group has increased much faster than that of those born between 1935-45.

Early analysis suggests the change in American death patterns in summer 1986 was not coincidence. If Chernobyl was the cause, a complete review of "safe" radiation levels is needed.

Early analysis suggests the change in American death patterns in summer 1986 was not coincidence. If Chernobyl was the cause, a complete review of "safe" radiation levels is needed.

Early analysis suggests the change in American death patterns in summer 1986 was not coincidence. If Chernobyl was the cause, a complete review of "safe" radiation levels is needed.

Nuclear Fertilizer

Recycled radioactive wastes mixed into fertiliser are being sprayed directly onto US crops by the Kerr-Magee Corporation (involved in the Karen Silkwood case).

After years of tests, they are spraying the substance - called 'treated raffinate' - onto thousands of hectares of pasture in eastern Oklahoma. The fertiliser is processed from wastes at Kerr-Magee's Sequoyah Fuels Facility in Gore, Oklahoma - one of two US plants that purify milled uranium for nuclear fuel rods.

"Harmless" Poisons

According to Corporation chemical analyses, treated raffinate contains nitrogen, trace amounts of radioactive uranium, radium and thorium, toxic solvents and at least 8 poisonous heavy metals - arsenic, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, cobalt and cadmium.

In high concentrations, most of these are known to cause mutation, paralysis and death. Yet Kerr-Magee scientists say studies of water, soil, vegetation and cattle in areas sprayed over the last decade show it's harmless, and that the mineral levels are equal to those in some commercial phosphate fertilisers.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved the fertiliser program on a trial in the mid 1970's and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture licensed 'treated raffinate' fertiliser in 1986.

Cheap Nuclear Disposal

Many residents have called on State and Federal governments to halt the spraying, citing inexplicable deaths of farm animals, several gross malformations of new-born livestock and the discovery of a nine-legged frog in a pond draining a pasture sprayed with the substance.

Executives dismiss reports of deformities in animals, saying that they neutralise the wastes and that mutations and disease often occur naturally.

A spokesperson for Native Americans for a Clean Environment says Kerr-Magee has found the ultimate in cheap nuclear waste disposal. The plant also routinely discharges small levels of radiation and heavy metals into the air, soil and water.

Proposed max radiation dosage (in millisieverts per year)
 nuclear workers - 45 to 50 (old 'safe' level)
 - 15 (new level)
 general public - more than 1 (old level)
 - less than 0.5 (new level)

SON OF AUSTRALIA CARD

The New Tax File System...

You thought the Australia Card was dead? The first part of the Federal Government's program to cut down on the cash economy is the shift to E.F.T. and EFT-POS (Electronic Fund Transfer at Point Of Sale). The Target retail chain has already upgraded its national network of sales terminals as a precursor to introducing scanning and electronic funds transfer equipment. Is this part of an international scheme to introduce a global cashless economy?

The first of the Supersmart Cards is being trialled on 120 grocery shoppers in Tokyo by Toshiba and Visa International. It has a conventional integrated circuit but includes an internal lithium battery, a command panel and a liquid crystal display.

Japan Airlines, Daiwa Securities and the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) have pooled resources to develop the supersmart card for home purchases of stocks and the reservation of airline tickets.

Visa has also struck up an agreement with Soviet banks to introduce smart cards containing computerised personal information for a *small number of Moscow department stores*. Under the plan shop assistants won't give change for cash transactions.

There are almost 500 different types of credit and debit cards in operation in Australia at the moment. The Standards Association of Australia has issued a series of standards for credit cards, including location of the magnetic stripe and various information tracks. This makes it easier for the banks to introduce a universal smart card, which would easily evolve into a de facto ID card.

Tax Files

The government's other major initiative is the integrated tax file system - integrated with bank accounts, social security, government departments, Medicare, etc.

The Government expects to legislate this year on a Cash Transactions Bill aimed at preventing the laundering of money through false bank accounts. It will require all banks to report cash transactions over \$10,000.

The Treasurer, Mr Keating, hopes to introduce legislation to set up the tax file system toward the end of this year, even though work on tax files is well advanced. The legislation will require people to quote their tax file number when they make major financial transactions, open a bank account, apply for a job or claim welfare benefits or education



allowances. There have been mutterings from the Democratic and Liberal camps that they won't pass the legislation.

The tax file number will be used to check tax returns, interest, share dividends and rent payments. The Tax Office will be able to trace people who don't file tax returns. At present you must lodge a tax return if you have a tax file number, but it isn't yet compulsory to have a number.

The Tax Office has already stepped up its activities to match income with individuals. It exchanges information regularly with the Department of Social Security (DSS). A pilot program has already matched information with data from DSS and in February had identified 102,000 potential discrepancies.

The Tax Office has \$700 million in computer re-equipment in its main office at the Deakin Centre in Canberra and other offices, in anticipation of the tax-file numbering system. This fait accompli has not been legally challenged by any political party.

Tax collections rose 16% in 1986-87 to \$52.9 billion, \$1.2 billion above Budget estimates.

Data Insecurity

A radical scheme being trialled by the Tax Office in South Australia and the Northern Territory allows 80,000 people to lodge their tax returns by telephone. If successful, the scheme will be applied nationally in the next 5 to 10 years. The system will be available first to tax agents, then individual taxpayers. The information is fed into Tax Department computers via modems over open telephone lines.

The Deakin Centre has been sending unscrambled tax file data to its State offices. Computer bulletin boards have been crammed with enquiries by skilled professionals who are keen to find out more about the data. This may prompt the Tax Office to call for its encoding, diverting attention from the ethics of the tax file system itself. The security of the Tax Department's databases was a key issue last year in the Government's ID card proposal.

WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS

NEXUS presents the following allegations made by The Reaper, a weekly newsletter from an Arizona Commodity Trading Advisor. We think it bears consideration...

What would seem a perfectly innocent gathering last September was attended by some very heavy fliers. The Fourth World Wilderness Congress, hosted by the Findhorn Group of Loveland, Colorado, was attended by global environmental groups such as the World Wildlife Fund and Wilderness Society, United Nations representatives and government bureaucrats. But multinational bankers comprised 10% of the congress, including such notables as Baron Edmund D. Rothschild, David Rockefeller and US Treasury Secretary James Baker. They did not come to talk about the environment, but about land.

The purpose of the Congress was to set up a World Conservation Bank (WCB). According to *The Reaper*, WCB is designed to get the multinational bankers off the hook with Third World loans. Wilderness lands may be used as collateral for the loans and then claimed in lieu of debt payment. The land would be put into a trust, called the World Wilderness Land Inventory Trust, owned and operated by the U.N., and then transferred to the WCB. Thus Brazil, which can't repay its loan to the Chase Manhattan Bank, could forfeit sovereignty of the Amazon basin to the WCB.

It is alleged that 30% of the Earth's land surface will come under multinational control by this means. Many nations face enormous debt problems - including the US, the USSR, Canada and Australia. At the end of 1987, 60% of our exports were required for debt servicing. Australia's World Heritage areas will go into the WCB.

The WCB is another step towards a single world currency which world bankers see as the only solution to the instability in the exchange rates caused by different national rates of inflation.

▲ - E.G.

THE GOLDEN CHILD



Samye Gumpa, Tibet's first monastery, built in the 8th century, presently under reconstruction after it's destruction in the Cultural Revolution.

His birth in the kingdom of Derge in Kham (Eastern Tibet) had been foretold by prophecy and was heralded by mighty omens. Eighteen months later the King of Derge escorted him to the monastery at Palpung with a thousand horsemen. Before an assemblage which included hundreds of incarnate lamas ('living Buddhas' or 'Bodhisattvas') and envoys from the Himalayan kingdoms of Bhutan, Sikkim and

Nepal he was proclaimed the twelfth Kenting Tai Situ Rinpoce, the great lama who leads all beings in the universe to ultimate peace.

According to many Eastern beliefs, some souls who have achieved their own 'enlightenment' choose to return to this world again for the betterment of humanity. These souls are known in Tibetan as *Rinpoce*s or 'Precious Gurus' who resonate the teachings of ancient masters.

Rinpoce is seen as the dual incarnation of *Padmasambhava* - the Lotus-Born One who brought Buddhism to Tibet in the 8th century AD - and the *Maitreya*, the 'Future Buddha' who is yet to come.

As the Chinese invasion of Tibet became imminent the young Rinpoce fled to Bhutan and Sikkim.

At twelve he returned to Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim, remaining there for the next ten years to receive the teachings and empowerments of his tradition. He also studied grammar, poetry, history, astrology, medicine, painting, sacred dance, mandala-making and sculpture.

Chokyl Gyaltzen (1377-1448) was the first incarnation to bear the title Tai Situ, which was bestowed by the Ming Emperor Yung Lo in 1407.

- Peter Krygsman (Himalayan Correspondent)

The 12th Tai Situ Rinpoce in Australia *Excerpts from a Press Conference*

I must say I'm very happy to be here. I think it is quite auspicious. I of course heard of your Bicentennial celebration but I didn't plan my trip to Australia because of it. I believe that countries like Australia, because of it's origin, have a very important part to play for mankind and for its future. I think it's very important that you are celebrating it in a most appropriate way, so I respect that.

I come from Tibet. My principle is every religion, every culture, every discipline has an equal responsibility for the future of mankind. That means every single human being has a responsibility to all the other human beings. I am just one of the 5,000 million human beings on this planet. I try to do my best to fulfil my responsibility - of course it can be limited, but I do my best. Now if you have any kind of question related to any subject, I'll try to reflect on it.

Quantum - Can you explain what part religion plays in everyday life in Tibet?

I think Tibet really is totally inseparable from Buddhism. Tibetan people's life, their culture, everything is based on Buddhism. That doesn't mean every Tibetan manages it, but I should say they do their best to try and implement the principles of Buddhism in their life.

Quantum - Is the interest that's shown in the outside world important to the preservation of Tibet's unique culture?

Absolutely. Outside interest simply means that people somehow see the value of Tibetan culture and benefit from knowing about it. There is something they can take from Tibetan culture and put into their own culture and get some positive benefit out of it.

S.M.H. - Would you like to see the Australian Government protest about human rights violations in Tibet?

Any kind of human rights violation - it can be east, it can be west - is the responsibility of any government which respects human rights. If the Australian government thinks that there are human rights violations then they should somehow be involved.

S.M.H. - What is the position of the Dalai Lama within the practice of Buddhism?

Well, Dalai Lama is very important for Tibetan Buddhism. At present he is the only person who is the religious leader of a particular lineage of Buddhism as well as being king of Tibet. Therefore he plays two roles, religious and secular leader.

S.M.H. - Could Tibet ever be really free unless the Dalai Lama returned as King of Tibet?

Well in any situation you can't just draw a conclusion like that. Dalai Lama is very important part of Tibet's existence for the last couple of hundred years of history. But before Dalai Lama was king of Tibet,



Tai Situ Pa

Tibet still exists. So you should look into it.

NEXUS - Would the big monasteries ever condone the use of force?

As a principle, definitely not. But the buildings don't speak, the books don't speak. The monasteries are also made up of people.

Quantum - How has day to day life changed in Tibet?

I definitely think there is a sense of disorientation. The wrong thing in the wrong place or something like that. I think the way the people live now is a great improvement on the situation fifteen years ago. In those days many people were accused and punished for even moving their lips, suspected of praying... ▲

Rime of the Ancient Surfer

SHORT STORY BY CRAIG T. BUSH

It seems so long ago now, when I remember back to my youth. How my friends and I used to waste the days away lying on the golden sands, swimming and surfing in the cool embracing ocean. When we were bored it was a good hour's entertainment to build a castle and wall of sand, and sit back and watch the waves gradually attack and finally destroy what took hours of sweat to build.

Sitting on the pathway, I often let my mind wander back to when I watched council workers rebuild the sea wall after yet another one-in-a-hundred year storm. It wasn't hard to imagine that the ocean had crept a little bit further up the stormwater pipe, emptying into the middle of the beach after a rainstorm - when swimming was to be avoided at all costs.

I could swear the seaweed and algae on that pipe were progressively creeping forward, too. There was no time to seriously ponder this, as most of the time I was dodging the maggots that nested in the Norfolk Pines, descending from the heavens to inflict severe headwounds on the unwary. Those maggots had only stunted branches to obstruct their bombing runs. Some said the branches were like that because of gas pipes in the nearby ground that leaked their poisons into the trees' roots.

Trees, pipes and maggots would all be forgotten as we surveyed the latest in women's summer swimwear.

Back home, looking in the mirror, I was proud of my bronzed Aussie suntan, acquired while waggling school to catch that once-in-a-lifetime wave. My mother would tease and make jokes about the freckles that covered my nose and cheeks and spread all over my back and shoulders. How she'd laugh the Monday after the first summer weekend when the skin would be peeling off in layers, "Why don't you put on some suntan lotion next time?"

"What! and look like one of those Westies?" I was a surfer, a weed, a waxhead, a Sydney sewerage surfer and proud of it.

I never gave much thought to the times I'd feel a bit crook at work after another heavy weekend carving apart the face at Curlie. After all, work was sickening and it was better to recall the monumental wave I caught before being unceremoniously dumped, half drowned, to ingest gallons of seawater. Crawling up the beach, shaking my head and collecting my board, I'd paddle back out to join my brother - who'd be laughing his head off. Some days I noticed the smell. "Hey, go downwind next time, you little bugger". Funny, he never smelled like that at home.

Riding the waves, surfing the oceans, I came to know the pattern of the weather and how it would affect the centre of my life, the ocean. But lately it's become harder and harder to predict the shifts. It's becoming more erratic. For a while I'd tell myself I was growing older and just didn't know the weather like I thought. It was a hard feeling to shake - waiting for that change, the swell that would never come - and when it did, catching you completely unaware.

Ah, the camaraderie of sitting astride your board, lying to your mates, feeling the sun beating down on your back, reflecting off the water. Ozone? What's that? Some new designer drug I suppose. Back then I'd try anything once; most usually twice.

I'll never, ever forget the day I cut my foot open on a broken bit of glass, left by some moron from a long-forgotten



beach party. Or the really weird colour my leg turned before I dragged myself up to the hospital and was told it was badly infected from the effluent dumped a few thousand metres from my favourite south-south easter breaking point.


After a few weeks in bed being treated with massive doses of antibiotics, my doctor pointed out that my "freckles" should be looked at by a specialist.

"Melon what, Doc?" Skin cancer - cancer! Shit I thought, I don't smoke that many cigarettes. After weeks of very painful surgery to have the malignant little blemishes removed, the doctor told me the sad condition of my organs after swallowing large amounts of polluted seawater...I was not impressed.

Now the highlight of many days is to sit, sweating in the humidity where the trees used to provide shade, and watch the waves smash against the sea wall, looking through my dark glasses - a necessity now in this bright sun. I try to imagine what the sand under the water looks like now. Funny, I miss that old stormwater pipe, but it, like the beach, is submerged under the rising ocean. In the distance comes the faint rumbling of a heavy truck, probably loaded with cement and rubble for the council workers - repairing the seawall after another one-in-a-hundred year storm.

Taking my hat off to scratch my bald, scarred head, I chuckle and recall the rumours of a ghost surfer seen carving up the faces of good waves on moonlit nights.

Walking back home, I think about the 5 foot 10 inch thruster lying in my cupboard, kept company by a virginal white environment suit.

Some things people will do to the day they die. 

Missions to Mars

The Soviet Union will launch two spacecraft - in July - bound for Mars and its satellites, Phobos and Deimos. They will be carrying sophisticated instruments from ten European countries, the European Space Agency and the Soviet Union itself. TV cameras, radar, lasers, ion beams, spectrometers, and seismometers will analyse the soil, atmosphere and magnetosphere of the planet and its moons. One of the craft will go to Phobos and will jettison two modules. One of these modules will attach itself to the satellite's surface by means of harpoons.

One of the more important experiments is a system of two semiconductor telescopes designed by Irish scientists to sort charged particles from the solar wind between the planets into their constituent frequencies.

The trip to Mars will take about 200 days.

Scientists are particularly interested in the Martian channels which resemble dry stream beds. Phobos, thought to be a captured asteroid (from the exploded planet that is now the asteroid belt), has extensive craters, the largest being 10 kilometres across, more than a third of Phobos' diameter. Studying the two moons should give information about the condition of the asteroids and how they formed.

Soviet scientists are optimistic of finding life on Mars, unlike the Americans. When the US sends their probe in 1992 they expect to find extinct life, saying that there may once have been life on Mars, but conditions on the surface now are no longer able to support life.

The US mission to Mars is running hot and cold. Although Mr Reagan made a formal announcement in February of the American plan to put a man on Mars in the opening years of the 21st century, both the unmanned and manned missions are in jeopardy over Reagan's proposal to foster a private space industry. He wants to give a \$US 700 million contract to the private company Space Industries Inc. of Houston, which will be outside NASA's jurisdiction. NASA believes the \$700 million will be deducted from its own budget. The US unmanned mission in 1992 to collect Martian soil samples will cost \$US 10 billion.

When he visits Moscow later this year, President Reagan will discuss the possibility of a joint US-Soviet manned mission to Mars with Mr Gorbachev. Some of the international space community say a manned mission is impossible with today's rockets. They point to the condition of Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, who spent 326 days in space - a manned mission will take three years.



Cosmos Harms Cosmonaut

The Italian newspaper *La Stampa* claims that Romanenko has serious physical illnesses and is mentally unbalanced due to damage inflicted by cosmic rays and lack of gravity. Romanenko has lost a quarter of his blood, his bones have become decalcified and his muscles, including his heart, have lost weight and function poorly.

Italian physicist Cristiano Batalli, a European cosmonaut candidate, said, "It is clear Romanenko was used as a guinea pig. Gymnastics and radio contact with Earth are not enough to overcome the physiological and psychological difficulties."

Romanenko has not been seen in public since his return to Earth. The Soviets say Romanenko is perfectly all right except for being a little tired. They have showed film of him apparently in good health, meeting people and shaking their hands almost immediately after his return. Some have suggested that the film was taken before he left - cosmonauts in space for shorter periods haven't had the energy to do anything comparable.

30 Day Limit

Dr Joseph Angelo, the director of advanced technology with the giant US technology corporation EG & G, told NASA in December that radiation in space could severely limit, or even totally prevent, long-term space voyages. NASA did not want to hear this news and kept it from the public. Dr Angelo went public instead, telling the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Sydney in April that there may need to be regulations to limit to 30 days the time space workers spend in space. This would add significantly to the cost of shuttle launches. He said industry must also develop a radiation monitoring system that can predict solar storms.

Ancient Galaxies

Astronomers have found the oldest and most distant galaxy ever seen - almost 10 times the size of the Milky Way - which may have formed when the universe was less than two billion years old.

Its discoverer, Mr Simon Lilly of the University of Hawaii, said: "Even though the universe was only a few billion years old at the time we're looking at this, the galaxy itself was a billion or two years old."

"So this pushes back the time at which the galaxies formed in the early universe."

He said the discovery could force astronomers to revise their conceptions. The most common theory is that most of the universe consists of cold, dark material that can't be observed. It predicts that massive galaxies like Lilly's should not have existed so early in the history of the cosmos.

To identify the source of a distant emission of radio waves recorded in 1981, he used optical and infra-red telescopes on Hawaii's Mauna Kea to observe the precise point of its detection.

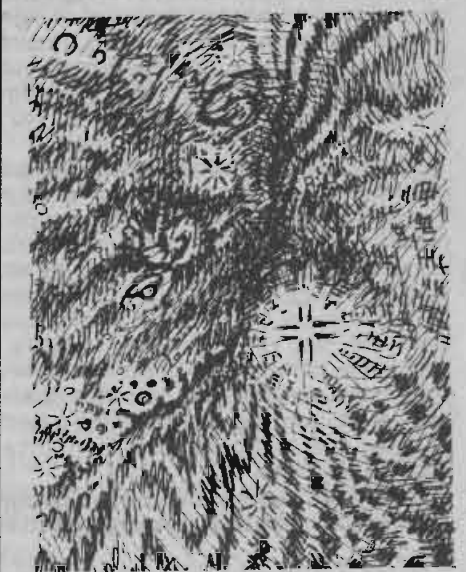
More Suspected

In January, researchers at the University of Arizona reported the possible existence of even older and more distant galaxies. Until one of these has been confirmed Mr Lilly's galaxy remains the oldest and most distant.

To measure an object's distance and age, astronomers observe its "red shift", produced by recession of an object from the observer. The more red shift, the older and more distant the object.

Mr Lilly's galaxy has a red shift of 3.4. The oldest and most distant galaxy previously observed had a red shift of 1.8.

- AP



Human Gremlins Infect Computers

Computer viruses - like their biological counterparts - change the mindscape and workspace...

Computers and their networks are everywhere. If they were all put together, just about anybody could know almost anything about anyone. While there are controls on these things only a very few are placed intentionally - others not so intentionally.

For instance, the computer industry and the media has made us all very aware of the Computer Hacker - that fiendish creature motivated by curiosity or espionage that accesses, uses and sometimes destroys information held on mainframe computers. And usually without paying.

Hackers Obsolete

Now the computer hackers have made themselves obsolete, particularly in destroying computerised information, by inventing a class of programs called *viruses*. These programs 'live' by transmitting copies of themselves to other computers via telephone lines or floppy disk exchanges. Their purpose is to seek out a computer's major permanent memory - like its hard disk - and start munching and mangling all the information it finds there.

While isolated and relatively harmless examples of these bugs were discovered as far back as 1979, it's only recently that they've turned malignant. The *Amiga* computer produced by Commodore was the first affected with a virus that was imported in mid-1987 via pirated games disks. In a recent consignment to Perth of 200 legitimate disks, 110 were found to have a virus.

Another virus that attacked IBM personal computers was discovered at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This virus was designed as a time bomb in that for the first few months of its existence it only copied itself. Only then, after it had been well distributed around the world via academic disk transfers, did it start its destructive work. This virus was re-

sponsible for the recent total destruction of *The Prophet* BBS, Sydney's largest public computer bulletin board.

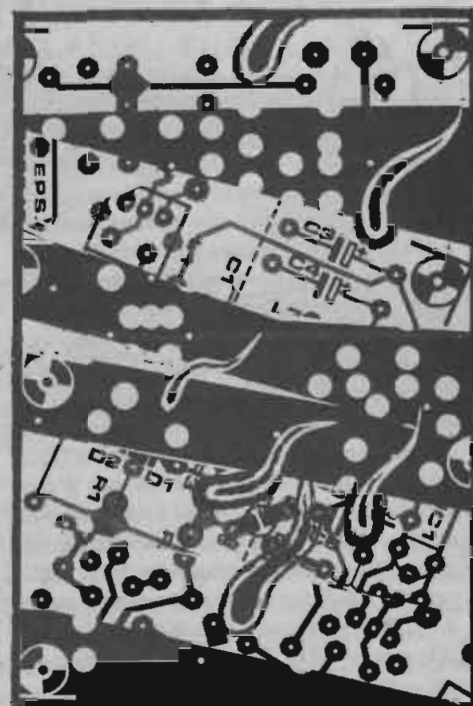
Owners of *Macintosh* computers need not feel left out as Aldus Corporation, producers of the most popular desktop publishing programs, have admitted that many copies of their new program *Freehand* have been distributed while infected with a virus that originated in Canada. Note that these examples all affect only personal computers - i.e. only those machines that put computers into the hands of the mug punter. News of viruses in larger computers is few and far between.

Irate Pirates

So now that these viruses exist, who wins? The large computer companies for a start. Software piracy will virtually cease to exist except for those that can prove their programs are not infected. After all, who's going to risk their hard work invested in computerised data to save a few dollars? Everybody will buy legit. And if your software company isn't large enough to provide personnel and computer security needed to ensure your product is virus-free, then you can go to the wall, irrespective of how good your program may have been.

Antidotes & Penicillins

To date these viruses have apparently only affected microcomputers as they must be written specifically for each computer and its operating system; once discovered and analysed a program can be written that detects and destroys that specific virus. Many legitimate users that some would call hackers (such as members of above-ground computer-users groups and operators of public computer bulletin boards) are so worried that they're putting a lot of work into writing good "penicillin" programs and distributing them as



free public domain programs.

The problems posed by viruses are already creating commercial profits. A Melbourne group called Hackwatch/Data Protection Group - which used to make a living out of warning corporations about computer crime - collected examples of several viruses, came up with antidotes and then sold the results to a French electronics company and a similar organization in the Netherlands. The director of Hackwatch is now disbanding the organization and returning to England.

The level of paranoia viruses will produce in the computer industry will rival that which governments feel towards terrorists - and lead to similar results. The majority of users will have their communication freedoms restricted for reasons of 'internal security'. The growth in the diversity and use of computers will slow. Checks and balances to allow social organisations to catch up with the changes that computers force, or erosion of democracy? ▲

- M'bob

Prohibition

The Freedom Censor

The law against cannabis does more than just finance organised crime and keep magistrates and beer barons off the dole queue — it's finding increasing application as a mechanism of political control. By using this law selectively against dissident groups, governments and other powerbrokers attempt to clamp down on social non-conformity and other "undesirable" tendencies. This appears to be the major reason why such destructive legislation remains in defiance of all reason, justice and morality.

We can see how this works in the current dispute over logging of rainforests near Eden, on the southern coast of New South Wales. Tension has been high in the local area, with some residents campaigning to save the forests, while others fight to destroy them. In November 1987, the NSW Government ran its annual televised witch-hunt, called "Operation NGAH", in which viewers are urged to spy on others and report any information gathered to the police. On this occasion, one of the pro-logging campaigners spent the whole day on the toll-free line, "dobbing in" every member of the opposing group known to her, in the hope that they would be harassed — perhaps arrested — by the police. This wish was granted.

Liberties Lost

This illustrates just one small aspect of the greatest con-job of the decade — the meaningless "war on drugs" which is a front for a very real war on the liberty of individuals and the formation of alternative viewpoints in society. The climate of paranoia induced by anti-drug propaganda provides an ideal environment for the quiet withdrawal of civil rights: any seemingly innocent person might be a drug dealer, so we need telephone taps to find them; people might send drugs through the mail, so police must have the power to intercept and open letters; anyone on the street might be a "drug addict", so strip-searches are the order of the day.

All of these measures are current in Australia, as well as corporate intelligence networks — ostensibly for the purpose of tracking laundered money but capable of spying on anyone. It's easy to see how selective use of these powers could effectively harass political groups and individuals who are out of favour with the "Establishment", with the added



bonus of the public smear value attached to any hint of "drug involvement".

Political targeting of this kind is, however, much less frequent than the everyday misery caused by prohibition. A recent prison scandal in New South Wales involved the near-fatal bashing of Jamie Partic, who was serving a five-day sentence for the non-payment of fines relating to driving offences and possession of hash. Magistrates on an average wage of \$70,000 blithely serve fines of up to a thousand dollars on unemployed and other low-income earners found "guilty" of cannabis possession; if these are not paid, the "offenders" are thrown into jail along with murderers and rapists.

Among these assorted inmates are those corrupt officials unlucky enough to be caught with their hands in the till. One is Detective Chief Inspector Barry Malcolm Moyse, currently awaiting trial on charges including possession and sale of heroin, amphetamines and marijuana while Head of the South Australian Drug Squad. Those who legislate, and those who enforce the laws have the best opportunity for corruption and the smallest chance of being caught, and one wonders how many drug busts are actually attempts to wipe out the competition. This enforcement problem is inherent in the nature of prohibition, and no amount of extra policing or political point-scoring can eliminate it.

Golden Shower Handshake

Marijuana prohibition acts to destroy the rights of privacy to which we are accustomed. Many Australian companies have already adopted random urine testing of employees for traces of illegal drugs, and some hire private investigators to check on the activities

of job applicants, with special emphasis on drug use. There is no scientific justification for workplace drug testing, so what these companies are really checking for is evidence of social non-conformity, not impairment of job performance. Readers might be interested to learn that these tests are ineffective if the urine is "contaminated" with a small amount of soap or table-salt.

Another new development is the introduction of police "random" drug testing for drivers. While it's perfectly reasonable to charge people who are driving dangerously under the influence of any drug, whether legal or illegal, the problem with this theory is that marijuana can still be detected in the bloodstream days or weeks after use. This means that someone could be charged with "driving under the influence" even though they are not affected at all. The testing isn't really at random — it's up to the discretion of the officer to decide if a driver should be urine tested. Needless to say, MPs and stockbrokers are less likely to be checked than less prestigious persons. More recent developments promise on-the-spot breath testing for cannabis, with the attendant possibility that we might soon see some more well-known names on the charge lists.

In the final analysis, cannabis laws are motivated by hidden political purposes, as a means of social control and a bulwark against "deviance" from traditional social norms. However, their effectiveness in this role is limited to the degree that the public is made aware of their real purpose. Understanding and education may yet be among the sharpest weapons against the menace of prohibition.

- Kenny B. Satyr

Herbs

Health is as near as a child's garden of weeds...

ROSEMARY



SAGE

SAGE (from the Latin *salvia* to save, salvation)

Family: *Compositae*

Varieties: *Salvia officinalis* - common Sage; *Salvia Sclarea* - Clary Sage **Hybrid Sages:** *Salvia Icterina* - golden Sage; *Salvia Purpurascens* - red Sage; *Salvia Rutilans* - Pineapple Sage; *Salvia Tricolour* - red variegated Sage.

Action: Antiseptic, Astringent (Stops wounds bleeding), Carminative (relaxes the stomach, aids digestion and reduces gas).

Uses: Good disinfectant mouthwash for bleeding gums, mouth ulcers and sore throats. Good for fever (lowers body temperature). Rub sage leaves over teeth and gums to cleanse and whiten them. A Sage leaf compress helps wounds to heal.

For Women: Sage reduces the production of breast milk and encourages menstruation. Caution: Pregnant women **SHOULD NOT** use Sage since it can cause involuntary uterus muscles to contract.

Preparation: Sage Tea - pour 1 cup of boiling water over 1 or 2 teaspoons of dried Sage leaves. Drink 2 or 3 times a day.

Mouthwash: - To 1 pint of water add 2 teaspoons of dried Sage leaves - bring to boil, cover and leave for 15 to 20 minutes. Deeply gargle a hot infusion (not too hot) for 5 to 10 minutes several times a day.

Poultice: - Take 1 to 2 handfuls of fresh Sage leaves, wrap in a cloth and soak in boiling water for 10 minutes. Bruise the leaves and apply as a poultice directly to the wound or burn and secure with a bandage.

Description: Sage is a native of the Northern Mediterranean. It is a Perennial woody shrub growing to a height of 18 inches (Clary Sage, the tallest, grows to 3 feet). The leaves are green with a greyish underside. Sage flowers in the 2nd year of growth are usually pale blue to purple and attract bees.

Harvesting: Pick the leaves as flowering commences. For seedstock allow some sage plants to continue flowering until the large black seeds have ripened.

Propagation: Common Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and Clary Sage (*Salvia Sclarea*) can be grown from seeds, layering and cuttings. The Hybrid Sages (golden, red, pineapple and red - variegated Sages) are grown ONLY from cuttings and layering. (Hybrids are sterile and if allowed to seed they will revert to 'common' Sage).

In the garden: Allow 18 inches between each Sage plant. Sage prefers full sun, a rich clay loam and a neutral to limey soil (pH 6 to 8).

Companion plants: - Rosemary, all of the Brassicas (Broccoli, Brussels Sprout, Cabbage, Cauliflower (since Sage repels the white butterfly)). **Antagonistic plant:** - Cucumber

In the Kitchen: Sage is good with fatty foods, cheese etc.

ROSEMARY (from the Latin *ros marinus* meaning the dew of the sea), also called the 'compass plant' (rosemary grows wild on the shores of the Mediterranean; its scent can be smelt for miles out to sea, so ancient sailors knew when they were near the coast).

Family: *Labiatae*

Varieties: *Rosmarinus officinalis* (common Bush Rosemary) - blue flowers, *Rosmarinus alba* - white flowers, *Rosmarinus prostratus* (creeping or prostrate Rosemary) - Lilac flowers

Action: Antiseptic, Astringent (stops bleeding), Anti-Spasmotic (relieves cramps), Aromatic (stimulates digestion, pleasant flavour), Carminative (aids digestion, reduces gas and relaxes the stomach), Parasiticide (kills harmful bacteria), Anti-depressive.

Uses: Nervine and circulatory stimulant (soothes nerves and calms digestion). Externally applied eases muscle pain. Rosemary Oil stimulates the scalp and hair follicles and is good for headaches. Lay sprigs of Rosemary between layers of clothes to repel moths.

Preparation: Rosemary Tea - Pour 1 cup of boiling water onto 2 teaspoons of dried Rosemary leaves and allow to stand for 10 to 15 minutes. Drink the tea 3 times a day and sweeten with honey if desired (good for headaches).

Mouthwash: Use Rosemary tea as a disinfectant gargle.

Hair Preparations Use Rosemary Tea as a hair conditioner, it adds lustre and body to the hair and prevents Dandruff. Mix with Lemon Balm if it is too strong.

Rosemary Poultice: Blanch Rosemary leaves in water for 10 seconds, allow to cool. Bruise the leaves and apply directly to the wound, covering with a bandage.

Rosemary in Wine: 6 sprigs (each 3 inches long) to 1 bottle of sweet white wine. Steep the Rosemary and the wine for 4 to 5 days in a sealed container. Drink 1 glassfull as a general tonic.

Description: Rosemary is a native of the Mediterranean. It is a perennial woody shrub, related to Lavender (which has a similar gnarled, woody stem). Common Rosemary grows from 3 to 6 feet high. Rosemary can live for 20 years if its roots are not disturbed too often. The leaves are dark green above and silvery white underneath. Flower colour varies from white through blue to lilac, depending on the type. The flowers attract bees.

Harvesting: Cut sprigs of Rosemary leaves just as flowering commences (when the oil content is at its highest).

Propagation: Can be grown from seeds but they are very slow to germinate. Usually grown from cuttings or by layering. Rosemary prefers full sun and dry, poor sandy soil. Lime (crushed egg shells) should be added for acid soils - in fact, a limey soil will stunt the plant but produces a much higher content of oil in the leaves.

In the garden Companion plants - grow with Sage, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage and Kohlrabi.

In the kitchen: Place sprigs of Rosemary underneath vegetables or fish to be roasted. Add a sprig to marinades, casseroles or stews. Soak Rosemary in milk (for custards and puddings etc) Add sprigs of Rosemary to your sugar jar. Rosemary flowers can be eaten in salads and sandwiches.

Send requests for info on specific herbs to Brian Spears c/- Nexus

Body Maintenance

Life's Search for Life (part 3)

To maintain any working machine it is necessary to regularly do maintenance. This usually consists of clearing and cleaning the tubes and lungs... untangling and realigning the stress in the structure... lubricating and resetting the moving parts and then giving it a general tuneup.

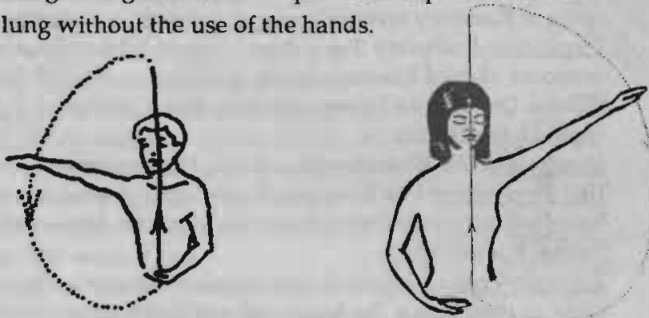
Usually some kind of alkaline substance like soap or an alcohol is used for the cleaning process. Specific oils are then used in particular ways to lubricate and realign the system... then everything is tuned to the machine's basic running pattern.

In our bodies there are alcohols to do the cleaning, oils to lubricate and salts to provide the basic pattern to tune to.

The various organs that supply each of these essences are accessible through the breath.

Left/Right Lung Breathing

In yoga, tai chi and tribal dances the lungs are separated by linking the movement of the hands up the front of the body with the in breath - and the hands coming down with the outbreath. With practice it becomes obvious that the right hand movement fills the right lung... with further practice it is possible to isolate each lung without the use of the hands.



Pingala - the Right Side

The liver extracts alcohols from our food which are then used to move particular substances around in the body. The finest distillation of these alcohols ends up in the head as the physical vehicle for waking consciousness.

The alcohols have a dissolving nature... they allow fixed patterns to be dropped or changed. The fact that blood temperature is their evaporation point in the pressurised blood system suggests that they are the animation factor in the body. Alcohols plus negative ions (ie lingam prana or yang chi) make alkaline substances such as organic soaps like saponins.

Alcohols can be recognised as they move in the body as a 'rising cloud of bliss'. As they move they relax and clean the surfaces they pass over and the membranes they pass through. As they pass they not only animate the system but they wash out any junk that has accumulated as well:

So if you practise breathing from the right side you can actually build a surplus of alkalinity in your system... which you can then use to clean your body, relax your mind, release your emotions or give your spirit a broader field to play in.

Shushumna - the Middle

The small intestines take oils out of our food. These are used for lubrication, as carriers and as the basis for our hormonal catalysts. The finest oils are formed when a particular intensity of spirit (alcohols) pass through the already fine aromatic oils

secreted by the pituitary gland in the main cavity of the brain. This alcohol gives more lingam prana to the oil, opening it up so much that its entire surface is covered by the fast-moving outer electrons of these negative hydrogen ions... this provides an almost frictionless surface for the infinite spirit to wrap itself around... to focus itself... enough to become conscious.

These fine aromatic oils can be infinitely varied in their structure and in the reactions that they facilitate. Once an oil has been stamped with the pattern of the spirit that is affecting the brain at that moment, it is used by the grey matter in the brain and the brain stem to trigger off reactions and emotional states in the rest of your being. Some of these packets of emotion evaporate off the skin to become pheromones... emotional triggers which, through our scent, tell the rest of the world how we feel... while at the same time causing all sorts of reactions in others.

Chemical Reprogramming

As an emotional pattern is repeated in the body the oil that expresses this is made more and more fixed. The lingam prana is replaced by yoni prana (ie negative ions replaced by positive ions). Some of these are stored in the glands and some in the kidney fat. As the oils become more fixed the reactions that they precipitate become more subliminal... until they are those unconscious reactions that can take us unawares... so that we find ourselves reacting to situations in ways that we are sure we have outgrown. In fact, in the conscious mind we have... but at that level of our reaction programming we are only the sum total of our earlier experiences. We can usually only access this level of our self-programming by having intense emotional heat which activates the glands. In our culture, at present, negative intensity is seen as less vulnerable, even more practical, than the softer intensities of compassion... so that even when we do access this level it is usually only to reset it in an even fiercer, seemingly safer, guise.

By its addiction to the twin roles of saviour/warrior and helpless/victim our cultures have been forcing anything and anyone who is not 'in their particular club' into the role of demon/scapegoat. The trouble is that they... the ones you are calling demons... are doing the same to you.

Changing Patterns

Uncomfortable aggressive emotional states are usually associated with breathing patterns that go up the back of the body... they put on our shields and defend our softer front... so the hormonal oils that sustain these states are drawn out of the back parts of the glands. The softer... but not necessarily less intense... more opening emotions are drawn off the front of the glands... sustained again by the breath posture.

The most effective place in the breathing pattern to change from one to the other is at the bottom of the out breath. A space is made with the breath out... the spinal muscles relaxed... the

posture changed... and the breath led up the front.

"It is too late to learn to turn around the tiger... after the tiger has jumped." So this method needs practice... at regular times... before it gets smooth enough to work on the deeper levels of momentary reaction.

This transmutation is important to any healer who comes in contact with the emotional being of others or microscopic beings who take their identities... their hormonal pictures of themselves... from their host organisms.

Ida - the Left Side

The spleen - through osmosis - extracts salts from the transverse colon... which are then stored until they are needed as the basis for a particular acid. These acids set the body's patterns... what's taken out of the food... how and which muscles are contracted... the cleaning and setting of the basic direction or motive of the blood... at any given time... anywhere in the body. The finest of these are stored in and around the kidneys as what in Chinese medicine is called 'ancestral chi'. These were given by your mother and quickened by your father... and are difficult to clean or replace. First the area they are in is washed with alcohols... by concentrated right lung breathing... then skeletal muscle contractions from the liver, in towards the spine... while visualising the inherited patterns dissolving.

Then the area needs to be nourished with the soothing and lubricating oils... by concentrated breathing from the lower abdomen... contractions back to the spine and up to between the kidneys... visualising the patterns changing to what you want. It's important to remember that the intellect gives you the form but the emotional intensity gives you the power and substance.



The new pattern is set by a salt brought through in the same way from the spleen, left lung breathing and contractions.

The same technique can be applied to the guises that microorganisms come to us with. By sharing openly and consciously your own essences you can help them dissolve their warrior disease disguises to become our spiritual allies... our deva friends. If you work on changing the role of microorganisms in yourself... the next person they pass through may not actually catch a disease at all but make contact with another level of our planet's consciousness... which is a very different experience.

	Left	Middle	Right
These are all the same thing }	Yoni prana Yin Chi Positive ions	Both Types of Ions	Lingam prana Yang chi Negative ions
	plus salt gives Organic acids	plus oils gives Hormonal catalysts	plus alcohol gives Organic soaps
Basics extracted by from	Spleen transverse colon	Small Intestines villi	Liver ascending colon
Stored	Kidney fat & Gonads	Glands Ligaments	Brain Gall Bladder
Manual extraction	Left lung breathing, grinding & heating	Central breathing Below navel Pressure to heat	Right lung breathing, stilling & cooling
Use	Establishing Patterns	Transformation & Lubrication	Releasing & Dissolving
State of Being	Strength	Compassion	Relaxation
Physical Vehicles of	Body	Soul	Spirit

From the stirrings of the seasons she came... pure spirit born from the mighty movements of a planet alive in the seasons... she was born of the change between summer and autumn... and had come to awareness understanding the need for preparation... for the winter ahead.

Joyfully she began her play through the flowers and the trees... adjusting the sap... she flew into a possum... to remind the fat layers of the exact nature of the insulation needed for this particular coming winter... then she helped him shed the summer mucuses... the possum sneezed... she laughed and carried on... a human baby was finding the temperature changes hard to master... she entered and led the blood away from the surface, in to warm the deeper reserves... then began loosening the mucosa to prepare for the new layers.

"Oh, no... the baby's caught a cold!"... the spirit heard the words at the same time as the projected fear smell caught and bound her... a sly cunning rose in her... she began... impishly... clearing all the mucous... leaving the membranes raw and open to the acids she knew were forming to make the new insulation.

The child sensed the change... "Oh, no," she thought, "don't change... you don't have to, you know... I liked you how you were... sort of like an angel... a guiding angel... I could feel you really loved me... like I was actually part of you... so that I could trust you."

The spirit shook herself and shed the almost accepted form... she thanked the child with fairy kisses and left it with some dreaming dust, then flew on.

"Oh, you're looking better now... that nasty cold has gone."

The child laughed and thought, "Look, there's something I'd like to share with you... but could you really listen to a child's story?"

© Copyright John Burke 1988

The FLOW

Between Humans, Plants

Follow the flow through

When you breathe in oxygen you also take in the companion hydrogen ions that the oxygen can carry... these gases are heated in the nose and throat... they are taken down and the ions separated at the branching of the bronchial tree... positive ions are pulled by the magnetic pulse created by the action of the heart into the left lung... negative ions are pulled by the heat generated as the heart beats up against the right bronchial into the right lung.

Food is taken via the oesophagus down to the stomach, which is encased by the left lower ribs... as it is churned in the stomach, osmotic pressure draws specific salts from the spleen (*upper dotted area*) into the stomach where they are combined with positive ions from the left lung (all the body's tissues are designed to allow their own selective substances through). This combination produces the digestive acids which then pulp the food... the pyloric sphincter muscle then allows the acid-soaked food into the "mill" - called the *duodenum* in modern medicine. The mill carries it across to make contact with the gall bladder (a sac under the liver).

The liver extracts alcohols from the ascending colon (a wrist-thick tube from the right hip up to the liver) and combines these with negative ions from the right lung, to make *saponins* (specific organic soaps) which make up the bile.

The action of the pulped food in the duodenum milks the bile from the gall bladder along a tube called the hepatic duct... to be mixed with energy-controlling substances from the pancreas (which sits in the curve of the mill).

This is then taken into the beginning of the small intestine... ten to twelve feet of tubing as thick as your thumb that fills the area in front of the kidneys and main blood vessels and is bordered by the colon. In the small intestines are thousands of tiny hairlike fibres called *villi*. Each of these contains an artery, a vein and a lymph vessel. If you've ever done the washing up after an oily meal you'll know that soap separates out the oils that are liberated either by cooking or, in the case of digestion, by the stomach acids... then the villi can comb through the opened up food and extract the oils.

LEFT



of LIFE

John Burke 1988 ©

Planet and Sun

this chart and your body

Some of these oils go via the main vein through the liver up the right side of the body to where the finest aromatic oils are distilled off into the thymus gland, between the top of the breastbone and the top of the heart. Other oils are taken by the lymph vessels out to the ligaments and joints. Once the oils have been extracted a catalyst is taken out of the pelvic colon through the glands called Peyer's Patches (*lowest dotted area*) into the last part of the small intestines, called the ileum... to begin the fermentation process. The fermenting food is passed through a one-way valve (the ileocaecal valve) into a wrist-sized tube, the ascending colon.

The separating alcohols are absorbed into the liver (at the hepatic flexure between the ascending and transverse colon). Some alcohols are combined with negative ions from the right lung to make the bile... the finest are distilled from the higher inside section of the liver into the breastbone (where the mother blood cells are made). Some go right through to the thymus gland, where they mix with the fine aromatic oils to create the basis of our hormones.

The rest of the food goes via the transverse colon in towards the hotter centre of the body where the salts are separated into the adrenals (*on top of the kidneys - the twin dotted areas in the centre*)... and the spleen... where they are combined with positive ions from the left lung to make the body's acids.

These oils, alcohols and salts are the physical vehicles of the plant's characteristic soul, spirit and genetic patterns.

The rest is taken down to the left hip through the cooler descending colon to the 'grease-trap' where the fat-soluble vitamins are extracted... then back to the centre... to touch the last part of the small intestines to release water as well as the alcohols and salts that are the triggers for fermentation and the basis of our own regenerative fluids.

These oils, alcohols and salts are the purified physical vehicles of the planet's soul, spirit and body.

The rest, what is left, is the body, soul and spirit of the Sun and completes the cycle by the creation of the basis for new growth, fertiliser, which is given back to Earth.

RIGHT

ⓑ

WHOLISTIC HEALTH

A transition to a healthy lifestyle made easy

by Tracie Greenberg

The word 'health' comes from the teutonic word Wholeness, and it's interesting to note that many new therapies are being classed as "wholistic".

It's important to focus on the whole because the process of looking after ourselves is a matter of integrating our different parts, a balance of body, mind and spirit. To do this we need a balanced mix of nutrition, exercise and relaxation, a wholistic approach. A deficiency in any of these areas leads to ill-health or dis-ease.

We nourish our minds by learning new, interesting and stimulating things; by reading, seeing movies or talking with people, asking questions. Spirit means different things to each of us. For some a religion, church, sect or spiritual group provides nourishment for the soul, as may a walk in the bush, along a beach or in some other natural setting. Some people feel that close, warm friendships with open communication nourish the spirit. Listening to certain music, playing musical instruments, painting, dance or other creative activities are all ways of reaching your inner self.

Blood Sugar & Nutrition

Eat regularly, don't skip meals if you can avoid it. Our bodies need food to keep our energy levels up. If we eat five small balanced meals a day, our blood sugar level (BSL) rises and falls on a regular basis - when it starts to drop, you have the next meal and it rises again.

COMPLEX CARBOHYDRATES - potatoes, unrefined pasta, grains and flours - are digested slower than refined carbohydrates and the body uses them more efficiently, keeping BSL fairly even.

Refined carbohydrates give us a quick burst of energy, but use up our reserves. When we eat refined carbohydrates - white bread, white pasta/rice, sugar - and skip meals, our BSL falls to well below the previous level after the initial rush of quickly assimilated refined carbohydrates.

Sudden Mood Swings

Moods are also linked to BSL, and mood swings can be easily plotted to show the links between BSL and mood change. When under stress we particularly need to be aware of our BSL and ensure that we eat regular meals.

Our bodies need a variety of foods besides complex carbohydrates. Using a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables should provide all the vitamins and minerals you need without having to take supplements. Be conscious that certain foods rob you of vitamins and minerals. Coffee leaches out vitamin B and iron leaving that low energy feeling an hour or so after the caffeine rush. Fat limits the amount of calcium we can absorb, hence eating full cream milk and yellow cheese provides less available calcium than a smaller amount of cottage cheese or skim milk. If you follow some simple guidelines you should be able to eat a healthy diet. Avoid/reduce salt - buy salt-free or low salt products - reduce intake slowly.

Avoid/reduce sugar - substitute fresh and dried fruit for refined sugars such as biscuits, cakes and chocolate; it will give you a more sustained energy boost instead of the quick, rush-drop of refined sugars. Caffeine, found in coffee, chocolate and some soft-drinks is addictive, making it a daily need. You may be able to reduce slowly or just do it cold turkey.



Reduce fats/cholesterol - choose lean meat, eat more fish. Avoid butter, yellow cheese and full cream milk products. Substitute low fat milk products like yoghurt, skim milk ricotta or cottage cheese. Use cold pressed oils for salads and cooking. We need only a teaspoon of unsaturated fats per day. Good sources are nuts, sunflower and sesame seeds.

Food for Living

It is a myth that we need huge amounts of protein to be healthy. An average adult needs only about **12% protein in a total diet**. We can reduce meat proteins in our diet by avoiding red meats and eating more fish, with chicken occasionally. Eat more grains - wheat, rice, barley, millet, buckwheat, oats and corn; legumes such as chickpeas, lentils, kidney beans and soybeans. Combine these with low-fat dairy products, tempeh or tofu for a balanced protein intake. Big meat-eaters may need to find an alternate iron source to compensate for their reduced intake. Apricots, eggs,

raisins, oysters and leafy green vegetables are good sources. Above all, eat less refined carbohydrates like white flour, white rice, white pasta and white sugar.

IMPORTANT

Make gradual changes to your diet, it's easier to do. Having reasonable expectations of yourself will help you avoid the tendency to rush back to junk food. As you withdraw from substances like sugar, salt and caffeine you may feel worse at first, but stick with it and you'll start to feel healthier and have more energy to do the things you like to do.

After years of using salt and sugar in our diet, foods prepared without these things may seem tasteless. Cook with fresh or dried herbs and spices, roasted sunflower and sesame seeds and other nuts instead of using salt. Wean yourself off sweet things by using fruit sugars or honey instead of refined sugars in cooking. These natural products contain other nutrients to help the body use up the sugars. Snack foods containing large amounts of sugar, salt and spices are the ones to which we unknowingly develop allergies and need to be gradually eliminated from the diet. Variety is important in providing a complete and balanced diet.

Avoid tobacco and limit alcohol intake.

EXERCISE

A minimum of 20 minutes dynamic exercise such as running, swimming, cycling or other aerobic activity, or 40 minutes brisk walking at least three times a week is **necessary** for good health. Apart from helping to keep the heart and lungs in good working order, it keeps your energy levels up and tones muscles, depending on which exercise you choose.

Be aware of creating your own obstacles to exercise. If the thought of walking for 40 minutes is



off-putting, try hopping off the bus a stop early and build up to the 40 minute walk. If you can't cope with groups, don't go to aerobics - go swimming instead. Whatever exercise you choose, it should be something you enjoy and not something you have been pressured into.

RELAXATION

Relaxation is a necessary component in any approach to wholistic health. Sometimes it happens by chance. More often than not, we have to try to structure it into our day. You may choose to learn a meditation or relaxation technique which you can practise daily or on some regular basis. Community Health Centres, hospitals and CYSS centres offer stress management courses (either cheaply priced or free) where you can learn a few different techniques. You might like to combine exercise with relaxation. Walk to a favourite quiet spot in a park, lie or sit in a comfortable position, close your eyes and count backwards

(in your head) from 10 on the out-breath and keep repeating for 20 minutes at least. You don't have to breathe slowly, but you'll probably find your breathing slows down of its own accord.

Learning relaxation is like learning any skill - it becomes easier the more you do it. At first you will find it hard to just concentrate on counting and breathing.

Your mind will keep wandering "...10...9...8...have I paid the phone bill?...6...am I doing this right?... 5... 4..." That's O.K. - all the thoughts of the day or week tend to come up at this time and it's a good time to clear your head and go back to counting. After a few sessions you will find you have less internal clutter and interruptions. Even if you keep having thoughts wander in, you still benefit from the 20 minutes of just sitting calmly with your eyes closed. It's great for your general health and can be increased at times of extra stress. ▲

AIDS - a Medical Bonanza

Medical authorities tell us that sexual lifestyles which injure the body and cause mixing of blood play a role in the transmission of retroviruses such as AIDS (as does sharing intra-venous needles). But they are starting to admit that Western medicine itself has precipitated many AIDS cases and that modern vaccination campaigns may even have caused its rapid worldwide spread. The evidence is compelling...

Virologists are questioning the assumption that AIDS is caused by Human Immune-Deficiency Viruses (HIV) alone. Symptoms such as Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), pneumocystis pneumonia and thrush have been around for at least a century.

Chemotherapy

Statistics show that chemotherapy prolongs the life of very few cancer patients - most will live no longer with chemotherapy treatment.

In the 1970s it was learned that KS could develop in transplant patients as a direct result of the administration of immuno-suppressive drugs to control rejection of organs. The incidence of KS in US kidney transplant recipients is 400 to 500 times normal! Out of immuno-suppressive drug treatments came the AIDS 'wonder drug' - AZT. The medical profession is treating one form of immuno-suppression with another!

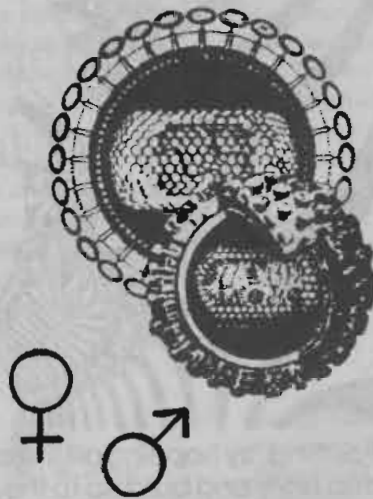
According to Centre for Disease Control criteria, all persons older than 60 with cancer and all patients taking immuno-suppressive drugs and cancer chemotherapy are excluded from diagnosis for AIDS - and AIDS statistics.

Leukæmia & AIDS

At the National Cancer Institute, AIDS retroviruses are grown in the laboratory from leukæmic T-cells. Sufferers from T-cell leukæmia most frequently die from opportunistic fungal infections.

Myron Essex of the Harvard Medical School, an expert in retroviruses, has found that - depending on the strain - feline leukæmia virus (FeLV) can cause either leukæmia or immune deficiency in cats. Niels Peterson and coworkers in California developed a "vaccine" against FeLV and they used it to immunize all the cats in their cattery against leukæmia. There followed an outbreak of AIDS amongst the cats, and the team isolated a specific AIDS retrovirus called feline T-lymphotropic lentivirus (FTLV).

But can animal leukæmia viruses cross the species barrier?



A 1974 article from Cancer Research reported on two infant chimps who had been given bovine leukæmia virus in milk. The chimps died of erythroleukæmia and pneumocystis pneumonia, that is, AIDS symptoms. This was the first time pneumocystis had been found in chimps.

When the similarities between the genetic sequences of the various animal viruses for leukæmia and AIDS were discovered, the Western media picked up on the possibility that HIV was deliberately genetically engineered from these animal viruses. Jakob Segal, an East German biologist, named Fort Detrick in Maryland as the source, prompting the US State Department to denounce the rumours as "Soviet disinformation".

Amid the speculations, they glossed over the news that these viruses were contaminating vaccine batches.

AIDS from Vaccines

Cell culture for producing smallpox vaccine is grown in serum extracted from calf fetuses. Foetal serum is used because it is much purer than adult bovine serum, but contamination by bovine viruses, including bovine leukæmia virus and bovine immune-deficiency virus is

still fairly common.

In an effort to stamp out smallpox in Third World countries, smallpox vaccine has been administered in prolific quantities.

In 1987, WHO hired a medical researcher to see if smallpox vaccine was linked to AIDS. When he brought the statistical evidence to WHO to show the direct relationship, WHO buried the report. The researcher then went to *The Times* with the discovery. On May 11, 1987, they ran a front page article - "Smallpox Vaccine Triggered AIDS Virus". The article told how the WHO campaign to eradicate smallpox in the third world from 1967 to 1980 had triggered millions of cases of AIDS in Brazil, Haiti and Africa.

The report found that the concentration of AIDS in Central Africa matches the concentration of smallpox vaccinations. Zaire, at the top of the AIDS list, is top of the smallpox vaccination list; Zambia is second for both; Tanzania is third for both. Brazil, the only South American country covered by a smallpox eradication campaign, has the highest incidence of AIDS in South America.

One WHO advisor who refused to be named told *The Times* that the vaccine theory explained the explosion of AIDS. But to this date no systematic studies on the effects of mass immunization have been done. The feeling at WHO in Washington and Geneva is - as one representative put it - "our smallpox vaccines couldn't have done any harm..."

Jeremy Rifkin, an influential Washington medical activist, delivered a petition in July last year to the National Institute of Health insisting under threat of lawsuit that they check worldwide stocks of vaccines for contamination by cattle viruses which may cause AIDS.

Sex Stops AIDS?

Recently the CDC announced that with couples where the male is infected with HIV, the more sex that the couple has the less likely it is that the woman will become infected. One woman had sex 200 times without getting infected by her husband, while another contracted the virus after only once having sex - possibly anal - with her infected partner. This is partly explained by the fact that leukæmic T-cells are flushed from the lymph glands by orgasmic sex. If these cells cannot be disposed of regularly enough, the lymph glands may develop sarcomas. Is modern sexual paranoia contributing to immune breakdown? ▲

- E. G.

IN ORBIT

MAY - JULY 1988

Astrological Guide

Hi! Things are not always what they appear to be. This Mountain Dragon year promises a lot. However, caution is always called for in this outspoken, venerable, mythological serpent's year. This fire breather is the only creature in the Chinese zodiac which is up in the clouds, always in the celestial heavens. Actions taken in this year tend to be a bit rash and impulsive, hedonistic to say the least. To reap the benefits of this basically lucky year, a focus on the long term goal and not the short term thrill is essential. Everything works out in the Dragon year anyway, despite theatricals.

You may come out of the ostracizing full moon of May 2nd with an increased respect for individual freedom. Males will be putting their energies into organizing their lives, being prone to detachment till late May 22nd. Women are feeling very restless and talkative as they undertake short trips trying to control finances. May 18th - 27th there is a greater attraction towards femininity and home life. The emotions go through a period of coolness from May 24th till July 6th as the personal relationship planet Venus goes into retrograde motion - a lack of sensitive diplomatic warmth will be in evidence.

May the 18th - June 17th will be a very restless, unsettled month. A month to enjoy spontaneity - expect the unexpected! May 27th sees Uranus retrograding into the freedom seeking, travel-inclined sign of Sagittarius. June 10th sees Saturn moving back from Capricorn to Sagittarius. So what has not been learnt about change and philosophical/religious freedom during the last few years will have to be confronted. Mental confusion will reign between June 2nd - 26th as old values, friends, bills and communications create an introspective scattering of energies. Careful while driving and working with machinery for a vagueness is likely to create accidents or delays.



A month of seeking harmony, balance and stability in domestic life and sharing with friends. From June 18th attendance to accounts, balancing the budget and a release of stress is necessary, so enjoy music, good food, cooking, colour and strive to give emotionally without expectation! Whatever you need, the universe will repay you.

A restless, smouldering aggression releases itself from June 14th when a more assertive energy sees an individualizing of self coming to the fore. In fact, sunset of July 17th sees a month of introspective, self-analysis dominating. "Spiritual house-cleaning" as the blocked up recesses of the mind need to be cleared. Relationships become particularly estranging towards the end of July. The full moon of July 29th sees major changes in unrealistic or unbalanced relationships. A cleansing time. ♠

Love Victor Voets Astrologer/Numerologist

EASTER PEACE & HEALING

GATHERING REPORT

HOMELANDS, THORA, NSW



In rain, rain and more rain, over three hundred people gathered at the sanctuary in the lush Bellinger valley for the third and last(?) Peace and Healing Gathering. Within minutes of arriving - despite the wet - I felt very thankful for being among all these friends. The wet weather drew many of us close together, to embrace and be very empathic with one another. Each day began with a greeting circle, song, dance and much humour. The dances often wound on long after the circle, keeping us warm - and deepening the sense of intimacy back in the central village, which was ringed with food tents. African rhythms (and Francine, among other dance leaders) kept this wonderful body of people growing.

Massage, great food, smiling faces, song and the fact of our feet being deep in the mud really did keep each of us earthed and I felt more open to interaction. It was a case of 'I'm here and you're here so lets get together right now as best we can, simply as we are', truly a wonderful experience.

Some other high points were the Earth Goddess Circle Dance, where two hundred people embraced the earth and the mud; the nightly concerts with such favorites as the *Invisible Opera Company of Tibet*, *Japetus*, *Jai Daemion* and a cast of thousands, the very outrageous *Mad Hatters Tea* or was it *Egg Party*; our daily circles and the fantastic food! Thanks to one and all for the effort and just being there - especially the ever gracious Homeland crew. Where-ever these events occur, I feel they are a very important part of the 'alternative movement' and encourage each one of us to get along and support these events. Much magic and majesty grows here, far beyond our urban or otherwise isolated dreams, and moves each of us (some say even those not there) to new states of living. ♠

- Andrew

REACHING FOR THE SKY

Grains for Developing Intuition

Have you ever found yourself wandering through the countryside and suddenly noticing that you are surrounded by a field of grain? Did you feel a sense of being home on the planet and sense an incredible electrical energy surging all around you?

Grains are the most abundantly grown foods in the world. Babylonia, Egypt, Greece and Rome were all based on the growing of wheat, barley and millet. The ancient cultures of India, China and Japan were based on the rice crop. The Inca, Aztec and Mayan civilizations depended on corn for their daily bread.

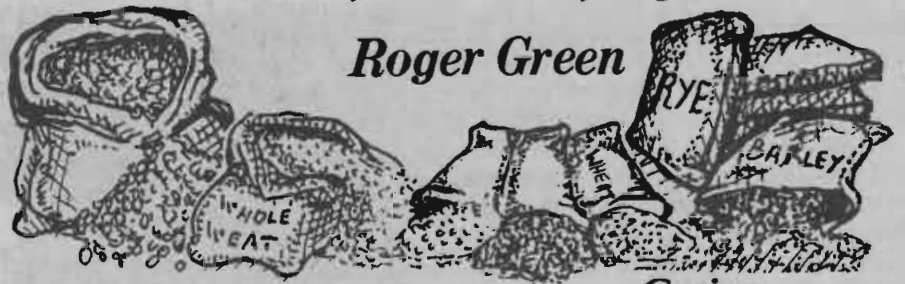
Macrobiotics is a system that applies diet and a practical philosophy to the enhancement of human life. Yin and Yang, according to Chinese wisdom - or Tamasic and Rajaic, if one follows the Indian saints - are the two complementary forces indispensable to each other. Behind all the apparent complexities of the world there are really two natural forces at work - the expanding centrifugal force and the contrary, centralising force.

Doctrine of Signatures

According to one ancient way of judging the nature of a plant known as 'the doctrine of signatures', the unique energy of a plant is transferred to the person who ingests it. Take watercress for example. It grows in water; therefore it must have some mechanism which eliminates excess water. Ingested, it transfers this energy to the body to cause it to throw off excess fluid. Green leafy vegetables are the lungs of the vegetable kingdom. They are constantly interchanging gases; when eaten they help our own internalised lungs to do the same.

Cereal grains grow up vertically, reaching for the skies. They attract large amounts of heaven's invisible energy radiating to Earth. Ingested they are good for our own vertical orientation. They look like and strengthen the spine and improve our kundalini flow and organs - hence correcting our posture, which is the home of our attitudes and consciousness.

Grains are a traditional food - our teeth structure reflects this. Five-eighths of our teeth are molars designed for



Grains

chewing grains. Grains reflect the beginning and end of the vegetable kingdom; they have evolved the seed and fruit into one, which is why they are total and harmonious foods. They help you finish what you have started!

Feeding the World

Food is the foundation of life and life is a manifestation of food. So why are grains so important to us? I write here only a brief summary of their qualities; many nutritionists recommend complex carbohydrates as the best food for humans.

Only grain can sustain the entire population of the world, if eaten in a whole unrefined form. The potassium/sodium ratio is very close to that of the body's cells. They are compact and dry, so they store well. Complex carbohydrates change to glucose very slowly and it does not upset our sugar metabolism. Many scientific reports have concluded that a high carbohydrate, low-fat diet reduces heart disease, diabetes and prevents cancer. This gives us flexibility, vitality and mental clarity.

So next time you find yourself in a field of barley or corn, reflect on this: grain eating provides a very clean iron in our blood. We are like magnets, picking up the infinite waves of Heaven and Earth, called Ki, Chi, "Dreamtime" or prana. Grain eating taps us into this broader thinking pattern called intuition and works towards a peaceful planet.

Tahini Sauce For grains or vegetables
Place some Tahini (starting with 1 tablespoonful) in a sauce dish or jug and add water very gradually, mixing thoroughly until the mixture becomes creamy. Add shoyu, lemon juice or umeboshi vinegar or brown rice vinegar to taste

Roger Green

Always vary your grain dishes and have at least 12 different grain cooking styles and combinations under your belt. Don't get hooked on just brown rice. Use all the grains, noodles and grain products in their whole and unrefined form. Combining with vegetables, beans, fish, or used in soup creates a complete nutritional meal.

Occasionally use the meals - such as rolled oats - and last but not least, bread. Bread is a strong grain product as well, but for digestibility and assimilation it's better to use grains that have been cooked with fire and water. It's better to use 'natural' forms of fire such as gas and wood. Avoid microwave cooking completely as this is the most artificial 'fire' energy which can create a very chaotic internal reaction.

Brown Rice

Brown rice is very medicinal. It contains ideal proportions of carbohydrate, protein and minerals for the human body. It combines well with other grains like buckwheat, millet and barley.

When beginning your meal, start cooking your grains first and then prepare the rest of the meal. Wash rice, stirring it to release dust and dirt - rinse until the water is clear. Practice using your intuition to assess how much water to use. Until you're more confident try using 1 cup of rice to 1 1/2 cups of water if pressure-cooking (a good winter/yang method of cooking rice) for 45 mins; or 1 cup of rice to 2 cups water for boiled rice for 1 hour.

A pinch of seasalt (yang) is used to bring out the sweetness of the grain to balance the water (yin). Alternatively, shoyu or tamari or an umeboshi plum may be used.

When cooked, remove the rice from the cooking container to a bowl (prefera-

bly wooden) and mix the yin and yang grains:

First wet a wooden spoon. Scoop some of the top (yin) layer of rice into a bowl and stir gently into its individual grains. Then take a layer of the deeper (yang) grains and mix them in the bowl. Repeat until saucepan is empty. Cover with a sushi mat and leave to cool.

Macrobiotic Grains

Whole grains are an essential part of the macrobiotic diet and comprise 40-60% of the daily food intake. Some examples of whole grains and grain products are Australian brown rice, brown rice cream, puffed brown rice, mochi (pounded sweet brown rice), wild rice, whole wheat, ceries, chapatis, wheat noodles and pasta, cous cous, Bulghar, whole wheat bread (sourdough), Fu (baked puffed wheat gluten) and Seitan. Barley in the form of pearl, pearled, puffed and flour; rye grain, bread or flakes; millet grain and products; whole oats or meal; corn on the cob, corn grits, bread muffins, puffed or popped; buckwheat groats, noodles and pancakes.

Miso

Miso is a fermented soya bean product which is high in essential amino acids and valuable minerals. It also contains Vitamin B12.

Miso can be used in a variety of ways including sauces, spreads and for seasoning. It is beneficial to the nervous system because it rejuvenates intestinal bacterial flora, which aids digestion and absorption of nutrients. It's very useful for making a transition to a grain-based diet as it turns on the required enzymes to help digest grain. It's important to use miso when reducing intake of animal products.

Miso Soup

Miso soup can be made in a variety of ways. Using *Wakame* (sea vegetable) and land vegetables is a good combination which reflects our biological evolution. When a good miso soup is consumed, a feeling of being 'home' in your body is experienced. It's good for 'grounding' and warming the body. Using sea vegetables and miso helps to detoxify and relax the body.

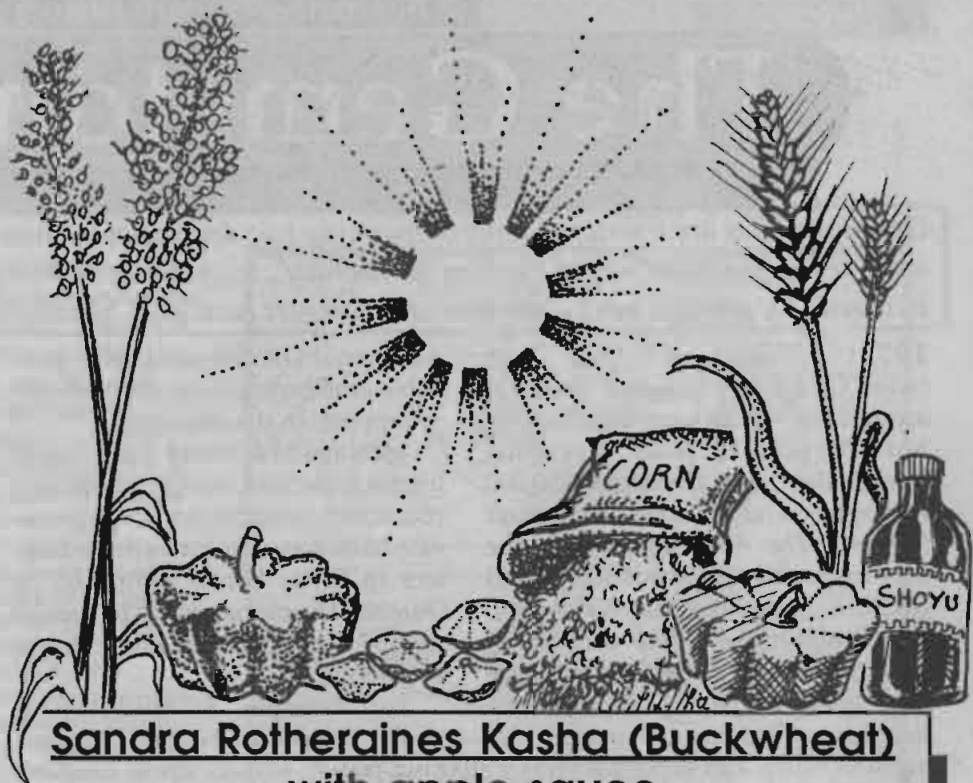
Preparation

Chop onion finely

Chop soaked wakame (sea vegetable)

Cook onions and wakame in some vegetable stock for 10 mins (*kombu* sea vegetable can be used for stock).

Add some cubed tofu



Sandra Rotheraines Kasha (Buckwheat) with apple sauce

Buckwheat is one of the traditional grains of northern Europe and Asia. It keeps the body warm in winter and fortifies the kidneys.

Ingredients

- 1 cup of cracked buckwheat
- 2 cups of water
- sea salt
- 1 minced onion
- 1 tbspn cold pressed corn oil
- 2 cups of cooked whole wheat spiral noodles
- 1/4 cup of minced greens e.g. parsley or celery tops
- 3 apples. (diced, add to a little water, high flame for 60 seconds, then lower flame & cook 1/2 hour)

Method

Heat pan, roast sea salt, add washed buckwheat, cover and dry roast with lid on, keep shaking to prevent burning. Add water, cover and cook for 5 mins, turn off heat, let stand 10 mins.

Saute onion with salt, add to dish with cooked noodles, mixing in gently. Garnish with greens. Serve as a grain dish with the apple sauce. Its ethnic origins are Russian Jewish.

Put some miso (about 1/2 tsp per cup of soup) in a bowl and add some of the stock. Stir until the miso is dissolved. Return miso to the main soup and taste for sweetness. Don't over-season - use your intuition. Simmer lightly for 3 mins; you should see the miso 'rising'. This effect is good for the liver. Serve with a garnish of spring onions - this gives a spark of yin to balance the yang aspect of miso soup.

Variations

Other veges can be added to the stock base, they may be sautéed first in pressed oil. A few drops of fresh grated ginger juice can be added at the end - this gives the soup a real perk. Root veges

strengthen the intestines and legs. Green veges strengthen the lungs and liver. Round veges, e.g. pumpkin, strengthen the stomach and spleen.

Roger Green is a macrobiotic dieting counsellor and shatsu therapist at Russell's Natural Health Centre in Glebe, ph (02) 660-1199. He runs the Australian School of Macrobiotics, which starts a 16 week part-time Certificate Course in Macrobiotic Healing and Cooking in June. *The Living Kitchen* was established by Sandra Rotheraine two years ago and has regular cooking classes and Friday night dinners with guest speakers. Phone the number above for information about counselling, courses and workshops. ▲

The Gemstone File

Skeleton Key #5

Gemstone Files are a series of reports spanning two decades of modern history which give an insight into some of the processes behind modern 'democracy'. Supporting evidence exists for much of the following - but read at your own peril - versions of this report have been hand-circulated (and sold) since the sixties...

1971: (Continued from last issue) 'Gemstone Papers' rolling around the world kept the situation hot. Everyone was nervous. Rockefeller gave Kissinger \$50,000 for Carlson and Brisson to write their 'expose', *The Alioto Mafia Web*, for *Look* magazine. Their mission was to find out everything that was public record about the Alioto connection with the John F. Kennedy assassination (such as Dun & Bradstreet's listed payoffs to Jimmy Frattiano - see previous issues) and explain it away in any way that didn't lead back to Dallas. The idea was to get Alioto to quietly retire, but still keep the lid on everything.

May 1971: Tina Livanos Onassis Blandford married Stavros Niarchos - her former brother-in-law until he killed her sister Eugenie.

"Folk Hero" Daniel Ellsberg, a well-known Hawk from the Rand Corporation who had designed the missile ring around the Iron Curtain countries (how many missiles were to be aimed at which cities) was told to release the faked "Pentagon Papers" to help distract public attention from Hughes and the assassinations etc. The papers were carefully designed by Ellsberg and his boss, Rand Chief Bob (Bodycount) Strange McNamara - later World Bank Chief - to make the Vietnam War look like "just one of those incredibly dumb mistakes".

Behind Vietnam

This was to cover up the real purposes of the war: continued control of the Golden Triangle opium production by Onassis and associates, and for Onassis and the people of Eastern oil sources to control oil which was discovered off Vietnam - to say nothing of control over huge Federal sums

which could be siphoned off in profitable arms contracts or conveniently 'disappear' in the war effort.

McNamara's World Bank, handing out American money to "starving countries", actually set up huge private bank accounts for various dictators in Swiss banks controlled by Onassis. The money could be used as needed to support and extend Mafia operations.

For example, \$8 BILLION in World Bank funds for "starving Ethiopians" wound up in Emperor Haile Selassie's personal Swiss bank accounts. This would make him the (then) wealthiest individual in the world (until he was reportedly killed in a coup) but other dictators have Swiss accounts also, some of which may be even larger. Money is drained from America and other captive Mafia nations to feed a greed that can never be satisfied.

The Rand Corporation, one of the major US "Think Tanks", had another goodie in store for the public; "Project Star", Rand's coverup fallback version of the JFK murder - held in reserve should public restlessness over the Warren Commission Report cover-up ever threaten to get out of hand. That ought to confuse the people for at least another 12 years, and by that time most of those involved will be dead anyway.

Heroin Highways

Note in passing: The dope trade routes are (when written in 1975):

Golden Triangle to Taiwan to San Francisco. Heroin from the Golden Triangle was sometimes smuggled into San Francisco in the bodies of GIs who had died in battle in Vietnam. One body with the guts removed can hold up to 40lb (18kg) of heroin.

Some dope gets pressed into din-

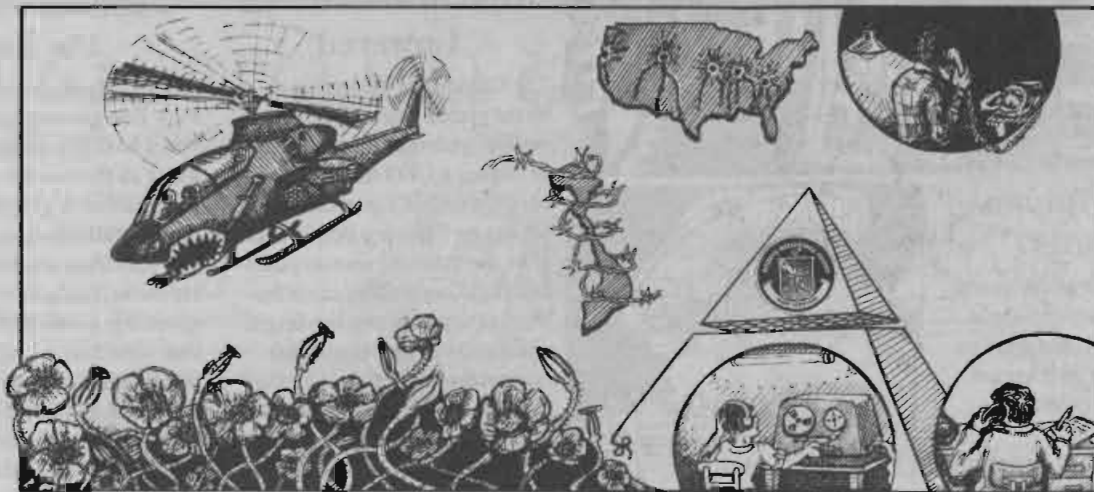
ner plates and painted with pretty patterns. One dope bust alone in San Francisco yielded \$6 billion worth of heroin 'china plates' - the largest dope bust in history, quickly and completely hushed up by the San Francisco press Mafia. The dope sat in the San Francisco Police Department for a while, then was removed by FBI men and probably sent on its way to American veins.

All this dope processing and shipping is controlled and supervised by the Mafia for the Mafia. Dope arrests and murders are aimed at independent maverick dealers and smugglers who are competing with or holding out on the Mafia. (See *The Politics of Heroin in South-East Asia* by Dr Alfred McCoy of N.S.W. University).

While Nixon was conducting his noisy campaign against dope smuggling across the Mexican border, his officer in charge of protecting the Mafia dope trade was E. Howard Hunt.

Lots of heroin was processed in a *Pepsi Cola* factory in Laos; it never produced a single bottle of *Pepsi Cola*. Some was processed in heroin factories in Marseilles (see *The French Connection*).

Still more drugs come from South America - cocaine - and US aid went to build a highway across Paraguay which was useless for the natives, who had no cars; they used it for sunbathing during the day. At night, airplanes loaded with cocaine took off from the longest landing strip in the world - financed by US tax money for the benefit of international Mafia drug pushers (remember the Vietnamese highways which provided a 'reason' for the US to remain in the country in the early days of the Indo-Chinese wars - to 'keep the highways open?').



And then there is opium from Turkey - morphine. The starting point of Onassis' fortune.

In case anyone is still wondering whether the Mafia can actually get away with such things, consider the benefits to be derived from controlling the stock market, the courts, the police, etc in one swindle alone: the 1970 acquisition by 'Hughes' of *Air West*, which involved swindling *Air West* stockholders of \$45 million. Later indicted for this swindle by the S.E.C. (in civil suit) were "Howard Hughes" and Jimmy (the Greek) Snyder, "not usually associated with the Hughes crowd", and others.

Pentagon Papers

June 1971: *New York Times* begins publishing *The Pentagon Papers*, the Rand Corporation's prepared cover-up of the real reasons for the Vietnam War. Nixon had received a copy of the first *Gemstone Papers* circulated in the US in 1969. He was now wondering how much information the Democrat chairman Larry O'Brien had about Hughes, Onassis, JFK, et al and, more specifically, how much of the dirt they planned to use.

Nixon sets up his 'plumber's unit' to "stop security leaks and investigate other security matters": Erlichmann, Krogh, Liddy, Hunt, Young, McCord etc. Hunt, as "White House Consultant", supposedly worked for the Mullen Corporation, a CIA cover. Mullen's chief client was "Howard Hughes". Robert Bennet was the head of the Mullen Corp.

June 28th, 1971: Ellsberg indicted for leaking the Pentagon Papers.

September 3rd, 1971: The Watergate team broke into Ellsberg's doctor's (Dr Fielding) office to get Ellsberg's psychiatric records. Team members were Hunt and Liddy of the CIA and Cuban "freedom fighters" De Diego, Martinez, Bernard Barker. All except Liddy had worked together at the Bay of Pigs.

Question: Why the intense battle between Mafia forces?

Answer: While Onassis was the recognized crowned head of the Mafia, intensive no-holds-barred struggle for the lucrative US second spot (control of the Presidency, government, etc) was not only permissible but encouraged under the Mafia code of rules. The only stipulation was that outsiders must not know about it. "Hughes" contributed liberally - and equally - to both Democratic and Republican parties for the 1972 election and the winner could count on even more money from "Hughes".

September 23rd, 1971: E. Howard Hunt spliced up the phony cables implicating the JFK administration in the Diem assassination.

October 1971: *Look* magazine apologised publicly to Alioto for their "Alioto Mafia Web" article and went out of business. The sticking point - they couldn't prove Alioto's Mafia Nut Tree meeting back in 1963 regarding the JFK murder.

November 1971: Alioto re-elected

Mayor of San Francisco.

December 1971: Roberts applied for a "Gemstone" visa from the Russian consulate - on a tapped phone - tapped by Hal Lipset, a San Francisco private investigator who worked for Katherine Meyer Graham (owner of the *Washington Post*) and others and routinely monitored Consulate calls.

January 1972: The Watergate Team showed up at the Drift Inn, a CIA/FBI safehouse hangout bar in San Francisco frequented by Bruce Roberts (the author, who nightly conducted a Gemstone rap for the benefit of any CIA or FBI or anyone who wandered in for a beer). James McCord, Martinez, Bernard Barker, Garcia and Frank Sturgis showed up - along with a San Francisco dentist named Fuller. James McCord remarked; "Sand and oil with hydrogen heat makes glass brick", implying a threat of nuclear war to Arab nations. This remark, like all other conversations of special interest, was taped by the Drift Inn bartender Al Strom, who was paid to do so by his old friend, Katherine Meyer Graham, but told his other friend, Bruce Roberts, about it.

The bar was also wired for sound by the Russians, Arabs and Chinese.

This serialised 'Skeleton Key' to the Gemstone File by Bruce Roberts has been passed around the world by networkers for over a decade. ▲

by Bruce Roberts

Next Issue: *Vatican Secrets & Watergate*

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

All Too Human Computer

A computer known as the neural net, built to simulate the way a baby's mind works, has gone on strike, due to what its inventor, Mr Michael Gera, called "an attack of boredom".

Scientists from the Imperial College in London calling themselves the Neural Computing Group instructed the computer to turn into a "neural net", which is a collection of dozens of electronic devices that mimic the operation of nerve cells in the brain.

In its initial learning stage, the machine was programmed to generate babble, and when it hit on a meaningful word, the machine was given a suitable response. The machine soon picked up a crude vocabulary.

The second learning stage involved showing objects, say the picture of a cat, to the computer, and telling it the word it corresponded to. The computer was then shown different cats, and the machine learnt to associate the word cat with all of them.

The Neural Computing Group found that the machine learnt to identify new versions of cat, but that when they showed cats that were too similar to permit new learning, the machine simply switched off.



The Ugly Face of Crime

A pharmacy in Scarborough, London, was held up in January by a masked bandit demanding a treatment for acne. The man, wearing balaclava and dark glasses, held a gun at the shop assistant, handed her a bag, and told her to fill it up with spot cream.



Video Nasty

British parents are outraged by a 30-minute video being shown to their children which is designed to turn them into vegetarians. The video, prepared by the powerful UK Vegetarian Society, depicts gory scenes of chickens having their throats slit and blood spurting from the head of a newly slaughtered bullock. Parents outraged by this anti-cruelty campaign have approached Britain's Secretary of Education, Kenneth Baker, to ban the video.

Earth Defences Lowered

The Colombian aeronautical board placed a news blackout over an embarrassing incident involving a UFO that was seen over Colombia's international airport on February 9th. Weeks after the incident, several pilots and flight controllers came forward to say they saw the bright unidentified light. The embarrassment was caused when the flight controllers, believing it to be a private plane, gave the UFO its landing instructions.



None of Your Business

TV series star Ed Asner has recently disclosed his encounter with UFOs. In 1952, while he was serving in the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, observations of saucer-shaped craft were almost a daily occurrence, and they were tracked on radar at incredible speeds. One day he was called outside to witness a whole formation of saucers which were flying overhead. The army took much film of the craft, and pursuit planes were sent up, but were easily outdistanced by the UFOs.

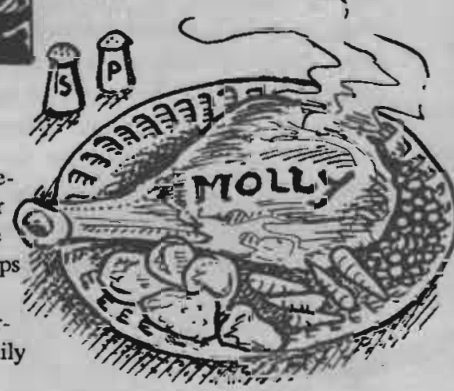
Next day, Asner and his fellow soldiers were paraded in the base square and were sworn to secrecy. An officer told them, "If you went home yesterday and told your wife you saw a UFO, you will tell her today that you didn't."

Asner said, "The army made it clear we were just a bunch of enlisted slobs and flying saucers weren't our business."

Feeding Time at the Zoo

One of Stockholm's Skansen Park Zoo greatest attractions was a bear cub which had no name so the zoo ran a national competition to give the cub a name. Malin Bergman, 15, won, and the cub was named Molly. However, because of limited space due to the birth of a new bear litter last spring, the bear population had to be culled. When the zoo could not find a home for the 18-month-old Molly, Molly was shot, last November.

Like good conservationists, the zoo put Molly to good use even in death. Molly was raffled off amongst the zoo staff, and the winners got to take home her meat. An upset Malin said, "How could they? How can staff give a cub a name, look after her for a year or two, and then end up sneaking her onto the dinner table?"



The Spirit of Medicine

A dozen international researchers met in Canberra in March to discuss new research indicating that the spirits of ancestors can attach themselves to bodies and cause diseases ranging from terminal cancer to mental problems such as manic depression. The conference heard that spirit entities can account for as much as 80% of human illnesses. Professor Zensaku Yoshizawa of Japan said, "After 30 years I am now astonished by the fact that the cause of many fatal diseases, which are beyond medical science, lies in the spiritual dimension."

Trousers Off

A riot was caused during a Rugby League fixture at Port Moresby's Kundiawa Oval when the Minister for Police, Peter Kuman, led fans onto the field, made rude signs to opposing fans, and dropped his trousers. Angry spectators climbed the fence and headed across the field towards him, but the Police Minister hid inside a police van parked nearby. New Guinea police fired tear gas into the crowd to control them. Police Commissioner David Tasion has ordered an inquiry and local leaders are calling on Prime Minister Paias Wingti to discipline him.



Jobs for Ufologists

The University of Manitoba's geophysics department has approached one of their graduate students, Chris Rutkowski, to do a thesis on UFOs. The university wants Rutkowski to investigate the theories of Michael Persinger's book *Earth Lights* which claims that UFOs are really charged plasma balls emitted from rock fractures during seismic activity.

Rutkowski had already criticized the Earth Lights theory in geophysical journals, but expressed concern about the offer, saying, "Sure it's an interesting subject, but it won't get me a job."



The Long and Short of Apartheid

Johannesburg Police arrested Dan Sebegodi and Lulu Tesheola for being in possession of the forbidden book *The Life of Steve Biko*. However, Dan and Lulu were dwarfs, and were playing *Bashful and Happy* in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at the Alexander Theatre in Johannesburg. The resourceful theatre director, Hannibal Wayne, decided that the show must go on, and so he and his stage manager played the parts of the two missing dwarfs, even though both of them are over six feet tall.



Logjam at the Morgue

Miami has finally opened a \$A14.3 million morgue to handle an overflow of bodies, after years of overcrowding at the Dade County morgue, the busiest in the south-east US. For the past six years, a refrigerated van seized in a drug raid has been parked outside the morgue and has been used as a temporary storage for bodies.

Trousers On

The Minister of the Interior of the African nation Guinea has been trying to persuade Guineans to give up their traditional sarongs in favour of the Western style dress of shirts and trousers. He ordered 10,000 Guineans into the Nawa Peace Stadium and repeated his demand. As added persuasion, he sprayed machine gun fire over the crowd, while *The Best Things In Life Are Free* was played over the loudspeakers.



Butterflies

Upsetting the delicate balance of nature can have unforeseen consequences. Growers of cocaine in Peru have had to destroy over 20,000 hectares of coca plants because of unprecedented swarms of Peruvian malumbia butterflies, which feed exclusively on coca leaves. The butterflies are usually rare. The Peruvian government plans to air-drop pupae of the small white butterflies on the illegal crops growing in the remote jungle, accessible only by canoe or by air. The state-owned National Coca Company has cautioned that it would be difficult to contain the spread of the butterflies only to illegal crops. Peru and Bolivia are the only two countries that allow farmers to grow some coca legally. Chewing the leaves of coca plants is a part of highland Indian customs.

The Gay Yeti

Yetis may be an endangered species, but are doing little to endear themselves to human beings. Chinese newspapers have published numerous reports of soldiers being accosted and anally raped by a male yeti. Last year, the Wild Man Research Society published a report containing reports of sexual assaults by male and female yetis.

One report told of a soldier who went missing in a forest, only to be seen later by his comrades jumping to his death from the mouth of a cave. Examination of the dead soldier showed signs of brutal sexual interference. At the same time soldiers saw a shaggy wild woman swinging away on a vine from the cave mouth.

The Chinese Government has given the BBC permission to hunt the yeti for a documentary they plan for this year. The BBC team, headed by a former climber of Mt Everest, hopes to find answers to these sexual attacks, and to find whether some males of the species might be homosexual.



Electric Man

36-year-old Xue Dibo, a factory worker in the western Chinese city of Urumqi, has started emitting electric currents. In January, Xue began feeling strange sensations, and then in February he knocked his wife over with an electric shock when he touched her hair. Xue also gets powerful shocks when he touches anything metal. He is being examined by local doctors.

WORDS WORTH *Book Reviews*

Wordsworth accepts books from publishers, independent authors, book shops etc. for review in Nexus. If you have a publication you would like us to review, send a copy to Nexus by the 10th July 1988, for inclusion in the next issue. Make sure to include the price and address of outlet. Books submitted for review are retained by Nexus.

An Encyclopaedia of Homoeopathy

Dr. Trevor Smith
Ariel Bookshop

42 Oxford St Paddington 2021
\$25.95

Arranged in four major sections, this book is a comprehensive alphabetical encyclopaedia of the major aspects of homoeopathic medicine. It delves into the history and background, the philosophy and approach of the homoeopathic physician, the common major illnesses and the recommended homoeopathic treatments and the essential key-notes of the remedies and their prescriptions.

Well written and clearly understandable, an added advantage to the collection of natural healing books.



The Way & The Power

Arthur Waley

Allen & Unwin,
8 Napier St, Nth Sydney
\$19.95

Regarded by many as one of the most gifted Chinese translators of modern times, Arthur Waley has unlocked the door to one of the most ancient and mysterious of all mystical books *The Tao Te Ching*.

His introduction and commentary provides the reader with background information and interpretation that is essential in understanding the wisdom of ancient China.



Earth Harmony

Nigel Pennick

Ariel Bookshop 42 Oxford St,
Paddington 2021
\$19.95

This book is devoted to explaining the ancient traditions of Earth Harmonies. The best known form of geomancy is the *Chinese Feng-Shui*, which has been subject to considerable study in the West.

The precise blending of natural and human-made forms and patterns is the basis of geomancy. Harmonizing human lives with the underlying structure of the universe - the cosmic order - by bringing opposing or complementary principles into dynamic balance.

"According to the traditional ways of earth harmony, life is to be lived in co-ordination with the natural order of things, the cyclic law of alternation, the vibrant patterns of spontaneous order".

Dealing with topics such as the hidden landscape, places of power and practical applications, the book is an essential tool for those looking to buy or build a home.



Tales of Natural & Unnatural Disasters

by Patricia Highsmith

Allen & Unwin, 8 Napier St,
Nth Sydney
\$29.95

Patricia Highsmith is author of many books, specializing in tales of murder, eeriness and intrigue. This book continues in the same favorite theme, but this time the stories contained within are based on real events, leaving the reader with an inspired imagination.

There are stories of how, when a pope stubbed his toe, revolution was launched and miracles happened, how a woman believing she was Cleopatra found happiness, explains what the tell tale smells of Nabuti really are, magic horror myths following in the wake of a furious whale; a bizarre pic-nic on the White House lawn and more.

For those of you who have a passion for the eerie and mysterious.



Patricia Highsmith

Pine Gap

Des Ball

Allen & Unwin, 8 Napier St, Nth
Sydney \$9.95

Author of several books, Professor Desmond Ball, Head of the Strategic & Defense Studies Centre at the Australian National University, has put together *Pine Gap* in as dispassionate a way as possible. As the most important US 'facility', Pine Gap is also the most controversial of all the installations in Australia.

The book compiles information, photographs, graphs, tables and maps. Chapters cover topics as Espionage and Arms Control Verification, Capabilities and Missions, Pine Gap, the Office of National Reconnaissance and the CIA. The book gives the reader all the tools to form an opinion about the purpose and functions of this US base.

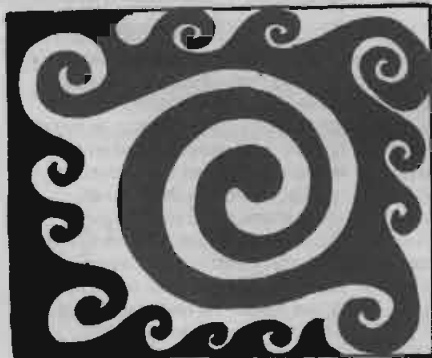
The Central Philosophy of Buddhism

T.R.V. Murti
Allen & Unwin, 8 Napier St,
Nth Sydney \$19.95

This book makes an intensive study of the Madhyamika school of Buddhism, founded this century by Nagarjuna, who is acclaimed as one of the greatest thinkers of all time.

Buddhism and its philosophy frequently undergoes change and regeneration, reformulating the insights of Buddha to fit different cultural contexts. This flexibility often leaves the Westerner confused by the sheer volume of its ideas. The author has made a superb effort of analyzing elements of this vast documentation and melds Buddhist thought in India with its parallels in certain Western philosophers, presenting the relevance of this ancient doctrine to the present time.

A must for student and anyone else who has an interest in Buddhism, this book is unique in its approach and makes things much simpler by its glossary of Hinduism.



End of a Journey

Philip Toynbee
Allen & Unwin, 8 Napier St, Nth
Sydney \$75.00

This is a journal kept in the last five years of Toynbee's life, continuing to the final days before his death.

It reflects his thoughts and feelings, calm and passionate, on God and the world. His difficulties encountered on his spiritual path, his life with his children and wife, the observations he made of the changing face of our times show Toynbee's insight into the human condition.

He was the leading reviewer for *The Observer* and was the son of historian Arnold Toynbee and grandson of the classical scholar Gilbert Murray. His experiences through the bohemian life of the thirties and forties give him an insight to the changes over the years, incorporating comments about T.V. programmes, news, reviews and more.



The Future of Astrology

Edited by A.T. Mann
Allen & Unwin, 8 Napier St,
Nth Sydney \$39.95

A compilation of essays written by some of the best astrologers in the world today. From England, US, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and France, the book covers varied topics - covering new links between astrology and biology, science versus astrology, psychology and astrology, research and counselling to name a few.

Certainly a different and varied approach to the many aspects and uses of astrology. Each essay is accompanied by a birth chart, biography and information on the author. A definite must for your collection, this book examines astrology in a modern light.

Internal Alchemy

John Burke
Nexus, P.O. Box A556 Sydney South
\$26

Compiled as a magical source and guide book, John Burke has done a good job of outlying, explaining and offering to the new-seeker (neophyte) a wholistic approach to the awakening of awareness.

The work involved in breaking down old conditioning or programmes is a lengthy one for most of us. Each needs to proceed at their own pace and this book provides the tool to the beginnings of being able to practice and understand our inner selves, our magical selves.

Complete with full colour graphics, diagrams and explanations on how to do rituals, visualizations and other alchemic practices.

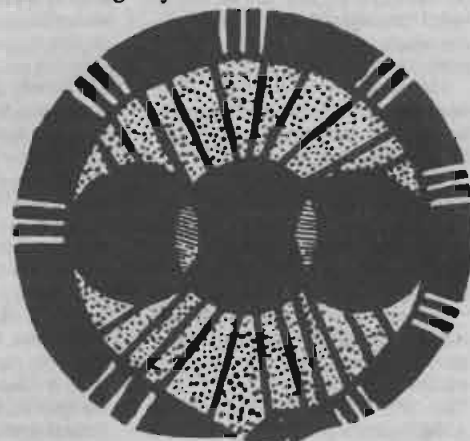
Understanding Aboriginal Culture

by Cyril Havecker

Cosmos, Box 267. P.O. Lane Cove
NSW 2066 \$10

A wonderful book compiled by the author through his personal involvement with Aboriginals, especially the Warramunga tribe, of which he is a blood brother.

This book looks at and traces the records left by the wise or clever men of the Aborigines which tell of the myths about the creation of the universe and the use of extrasensory perception to gain access to information. The book also translates to a modern perspective Aboriginal peoples' strong religious philosophies, perceived by their unique culture; how they live by the laws of Dreamtime; how the land responds to magic rituals; and sacred legends and traditions. The book presents all these topics and many more in a readable and fascinating way.



Journey Into the World of Metaphysics, Vols 1 & 2

Dr Joseph S. Chiappalone
P.O. Box 639, Penrith, NSW, 2750
\$4.95 & \$9.95.

"It is no coincidence that many are searching in this day and time for true spiritual significance in their lives. The reason is that a dramatic time of change has arrived on this planet. Our inner being knows about this time of change and is impressing upon our physical minds the need to awaken and awaken quickly lest the chances offered in this period of change are lost."

These books attempt to explain the extraordinary: - the occult, reincarnation, karma, rebirthing, astral travel, the Sirius mystery and many more experiences occurring in the field of metaphysics. A useful, insightful and interesting set of books on metaphysical and spiritual subjects.

Grapevine

Grapevine is an open forum for discussion - opinions expressed in these letters are those of the writer only. Please keep letters as concise as possible and note how you want to be identified.

Grapevine;
I am appalled at the methadone program as it is practised in this state. I am not discussing alternative rehabilitation, nor is methadone a safe effective option. I am disgusted by many things I find in my researches into methadone treatment.

The majority of patients voluntarily seek help. Many more are refused one of these places due to the NSW government's minimal quota permits.

Once accepted for treatment, the patient MUST sign away many rights. This contract is often several pages in length. Signing does not guarantee the patient will be treated. No patient's rights are mentioned, only circumstances that can be used to eject the unfortunate from methadone treatment - not just because of continuing drug use, but for many trivial "transgressions." Most contracts even limit where the patient may do their shopping!

I have sworn information accusing doctors of Medibank fraud, inhumane practices, even criminal negligence.

Will you do something to help stop this malfeasance and government indifference? Please write, phone, even petition your local minister; examine and discuss.

If you would help me assemble more information regarding this state's methadone program, please write to:
"Sandy", C/O Nexus, P.O. Box A556, Sydney South, 2000.
I will appreciate your input.

Dear Nexus,

Your magazine is the best news available. As the name implies, the "bonding" of all that we're concerned about.

However, I wonder why you haven't done an article on the radiation contaminated foods imported from Europe which are being dumped on Australian consumers? As we all know, most of Europe is contaminated by acid rain and radiation, and will be for the next thirty years or more.

Closer to home, after the discovery of chemical residues in cattle have been discovered, ten years after the DDT and Dieldrin were banned in the USA, a person naturally wonders what chemical residues have been contaminating our fruit and veg.

Grains are grown on chemical fertilizers, sprayed for weeds and bugs and stored in sprayed silos. Sprayed with WHAT? How clean is our health food? Why are our kids allergic when reared on whole-

some health foods? Why are Australian growers being held to ransom by the chemical companies?

Looking for some answers.
Wishing you every success,
Lyn Mason.

Dear eds,

You invite letters from readers who find anything in your magazine incorrect or biased, so I would like to correct you on your article in #3, "People who live in glass houses". I feel there is a hell of a lot of nonsense trotted out about the greenhouse effect these days. I enclose a copy of the latest issue of my own magazine, wherein you'll find my own views on this subject in the editorial.

I find your article a lot more sensible than the bulk of articles on this subject, especially as you actually write of trying to avoid such a disastrous climatic change, whereas just about all others regard it as inevitable and quite beyond our control. Such articles are usually full of lies and untruths at worst or inaccuracies at best, and you have committed such an inaccuracy in your statement that the sea level has risen half a metre over the last fifty years. Nowhere else have I come across such a claim. In THE DOOMSDAY BOOK (1970) Gordon Rattray Taylor states that the sea level rose between 1930 and 1948. True, if this continued, it would mean a 50 cm rise over about fifty years, but there is no evidence that it did continue. He also says that the sea level rose fastest during the nineteenth century, when the warming trend that marked the first half of this century was at its peak. But another scientist recently speaking on the greenhouse effect referred to a mere 10 cm rise over the last hundred years or so.

All that aside, I can tell you myself that the sea level has not risen half a metre over the last fifty years. I have not been around that long, but I have been around for a goodly fraction of fifty years and I grew up by the sea in your now not so fair city. I remember my mother taking my sister and me to Balmoral beach as far back as 1948 or 1949. We were only little kids then, but I think I would have noticed a rise in sea level, such as you claim, since then. More relevant is the matter of beach erosion, which you give a mention of worsening as the sea rises.

You cite a 25% increase in rainfall over the last 25 years as convincing evidence of the greenhouse effect at work. But that proves nothing. As I say in my article, the present greenhouse

Preditorial

Hope you like our 64-page first birthday issue! NEXUS is an independent publication which pushes no particular political, religious or cultural viewpoint. We provide a forum for a full spectrum of views - particularly those which, for various reasons, are not given ample coverage elsewhere.

We ensure (as far as possible) that all our information is verifiable and true - and that our sponsors and advertisers genuinely provide beneficial services and products; we've knocked back hundreds of dollars worth of advertising in the past 2 issues where we've been dubious of claims made or have proven them incorrect.

We handle our own distribution, so if you want to see us at your local newsagent, health food store or other outlet, give them our address or phone number - & contact us yourself!

doomsayers ignore the climatic trends over the last hundred years or somehow twist them to fit their theory, even if that amounts to squeezing square pegs into round holes. Part of the climatic pattern of the warming trend of the first half of this century was a drop in mean rainfall in eastern Australia and in other similar climatic zones around the world, including Argentina and the eastern United States (and probably eastern South Africa, China and Japan, though I'm not sure about these). Since 1940 or 1950 we have seen a reversal of that trend, hence a rise in rainfall is part of a return to the norm of last century and before.

The ideological aspect of the greenhouse effect is tricky. Is it really ideologically unsound to play it down? Well, for one thing, to go on about it without trying to find some way of avoiding it is not at all constructive. Indeed it is downright destructive to wallow in doom and gloom, which is all the rage in the eighties. Also important to remember, and something I have not stressed nearly enough, is that the greenhouse effect is used by the pushers of nuclear power. I remember Isaac Asimov wrote such an essay as long ago as the sixties. So one needs to be very wary of believing what one reads on this issue. Furthermore, I feel that the greenhouse effect and other dooms are being overplayed deliberately to make people feel helpless, thus rendering them docile and easier to control.

I like your references to ruins on the seabed as evidence of an ice-

If you have anything to say about NEXUS, why not say it in Grapevine? If you like us, PLEASE subscribe - or send a gift subscription to a friend (see form on p55). And take advantage of this issue's **FREE OFFER** on the next page - your opinions will influence NEXUS directly in a mini 'participatory democracy'. And this readership survey is VITAL to our growth (There's also a discount offer on p52)!

It's a time of great change, but the direction of change is determined by the pictures we weave together. It's not enough to complain or protest about what is; we need to supply positive alternatives that can be realised. Communication can change reality, so talk about issues that concern you to friends and listen to what they have to say. Making connections is what NEXUS is all about.

- Proofreader/Editors

age civilization. This is an example showing that orthodox science is really no closer to truth than any other philosophy, religion or belief system. Scientists choose which evidence to heed and which to ignore, so that such things as civilizations older than a few thousand years or on Mars are nonos along with psychic phenomena, astrology and so on, in spite of the evidence for these things. Of course the orthodox scientific belief changes from time to time, thus the greenhouse effect and a decaying ozone layer are all the rage nowadays, whereas more than ten years ago they were not. Instead back then we had the oncoming ice-age to worry about. Don't get taken in by the orthodox science you get in the media.

Sincerely, Michael Hallstone,
Box Hill, Vic.

Dear Michael - you are, of course, correct about the sea not having risen half a metre in the last 50 years. But it has risen by 5-10cm over that period, depending on whom you believe (see *Errata* last issue). As you say, this may be part of a temporary cycle - and if not, we may already be altering things for the better, albeit unconsciously, in our atmospheric tampering.

But according to the vast weight of data coming down, the Greenhouse Effect IS REAL. Ask the CSIRO - we have to get ready now.

Even if all the conclusions are wrong, the data may prompt us to pursue more ecologically sane alternatives simply because they're a good idea. And they are!
Thanks - NEX.